EAST BAY EXPRESS

SEPTEMBER 2-8 2009 EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM



Punk Rock Opera

Green Day electrifies musical theater at the Berkeley Rep with *American Idiot*. By David Downs



FOOD 34

ECO WATCH 10

THE BATTLE OVER THE BIG DITCH

A fight has broken out among environmentalists over a newly proposed peripheral canal

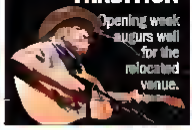
By Robert Gammon

When a proposal for a peripheral canal came before voters in 1982 environmentalists unanimously opposed it. The canal, which would have run around the east side of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, was rightly viewed at the time as a water grab by Southern California developers and Central Valley agribusiness. But since then the delta's ecosystem has nearly collapsed and its fragile levees have continued to crumble. As a result, the governor and state legislative leaders are once again discussing a peripheral canal plan, and this time it's creating a schism in the environmental community. *Story inside*

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On the Cover *Green Day. Photo courtesy of Warner Brothers Records.*

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Managing Editor Kathleen Wentz
Staff Writer Robert Gammon
Staff Writer/Calendar Editor Rachel Swan
Copy Editor/Editorial Coordinator Nora Saltonstall
Editorial Interns Elton Cushing, Paula Lehmus
Proofreader Christa Bauer
Contributors Rob Campbell, DeWitt Cheng, Chris Duffey, Eaflee Finn, Dave Gil de Rubio, Matthew Green, Andrea Gronvall, Cole Haddon, J.K. Jones, Ruby Kleiman, Eric Klein, Janet, Sarah Rovall, Annell Rufus, Jason Victor Serinus, Jamie Sisk, Matthew Stafford, Kelly Vence, Jay Youngdahl

Art & Production
Production Manager Greg Taveras
Graphic Designers Brian Kelly, Nicholas Wong

Business
Publisher Jody Colley
Business Manager Matthew Ayotte
Systems Managers James Hitchcock
Bay Local Community Organizer Hal Bindy

Advertising
Sales & Marketing Director Terry Furry
Sales Manager Sonia Rusk
Account Executives Ron Gottenberg, Jessica Leventhal, Marie Ortega, Brent Ragland
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LETTERS

Let's Rally

Thank you so much for your piece on the ugest bishop who is trying to keep one from marrying. I would like to organize a group to show the Oakland congregation that there are those disgusted by this man. If there is any way you can let me know if there will be rallies or marches. I plan on attending services to disrupt in any way I can. Thank you

Adam Fitch, Emeryville

Civil Marriage vs. Religious Marriage

One hardly knows where to begin after reading Chris Thompson's article on Oakland's new bishop. I disagree with the idea that the gay community (referred to as the other side) was caught sleeping on Proposition 8. We knew Prop. 8 was coming, but what we were unprepared for was the vicious lies and propaganda that would be perpetrated by the anti-marriage forces. Please let me set the record straight.

The word, "marriage" covers a lot of territory. Marriage in church is a sacrament. Marriage at your county clerk's office is a legally binding contract which entitles the parties to a whole host of government benefits. What was at issue in Proposition 8 was civil marriage and not religious marriage. Therefore it is totally inappropriate for churches to get involved in civil marriage, because civil marriage has nothing to do with the Catholic Church or any other church for that matter. The idea that civil marriage could affect religious institutions is nothing less than paranoia. The well established legal concept of freedom of religion protects religious institutions to decide who gets the sacrament and who does not. To represent anything else is nothing less than a lie and a sin. Gay marriage has nothing to do with the decay of society, but has everything to do with the gay community growing up and taking its rightful place in society and stepping up to the responsibilities that go with it.

George Collins, Berkeley

His Strength Is a Gift

Bishop Salvatore Cordileone participated from the beginnings of signature gathering on petitions to the ultimate passing of Prop. 8 into constitutional law. That was the only aspect of Chris Thompson's article that was completely accurate. Bishop Cordileone was a humble servant in the campaign to protect marriage's historic definition. He is unapologetically loyal to the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church, and his gentle strength was a gift to the broad coalition of organizations known as ProtectMarriage.com. The people of the Diocese of Oakland are fortunate to have the leadership, intelligence, and quick, compassionate smile of Bishop Cordileone. The readers of the *East Bay Express* are much less fortunate to have the biased "writing" of Chris Thompson.

Jon Prentice, Chairman
ProtectMarriage.com Coalition

Marriage and Natural Law

Thank you for your story about Bishop Cordileone and Proposition 8. I am grateful that you emphasized the compassion and pastoral concern for homosexual persons. There is no guile in the bishop simply a concern for all souls who are placed in his care. His obligation to speak the truth in love, is to God, not man, your story seemed to illustrate that obligation, thank you.

To those who perceive the preservation of natural marriage as an assault on the dignity and rights, it is important to understand that marriage is a subsidiary society that 1) predates the state and 2) is rooted in natural law. No court or legislative body can change that objective reality. To dismiss others as disordering of society that is destructive to everyone — homosexual and heterosexual- historically, this type of disordering has almost without exception led to totalitarianism. Perhaps the Bishop is actually brilliant enough to know that the common good of all is served when natural marriage is preserved. After all when was the last time you heard of a totalitarian society that tolerated open homosexuality?

Dolores Meehan, San Francisco

Where Are Your Tithings Going?

It was deeply disturbed to read about Bishop Salvatore Cordileone) integral role in the Yes on 8 Campaign. How can a man of the church work to raise $40 million dollars to [take] away rights from people? How many migrant workers would have been fed with that $40 million dollars? How many job skills programs ESL programs, health and wellness programs could have been funded with the money that was used to strip gay families of legal protections and dignity? A man who works to take away people's rights, rather than uplift them and alleviate suffering is not a man to be trusted, nor revered. There's nothing holy about his union with the Yes on 8 Campaign.

The fact that he invited Maggie Gallagher who advocates the benefits of marriage but wishes to deny those benefits to same-sex couples is egregious. I debated Maggie Gallagher at Brown University in Rhode Island in September 2006 and her arguments were disingenuous. The educated students saw through her insincerity when I invited her to explore any common ground in support of helping people save their marriages. In addition to a marriage equality advocate, I am also a psychologist and have taught marriage and family therapy to graduate level counseling students for over a decade. Not surprising, she declined. Because her real interest was taking away rights from gay people not supporting people gay or straight to have strong healthy relationships. How many free couples communication workshops could have been offered with that $40 million dollars? How many conflict-resolution classes to reduce family violence could have been offered? Maggie Gallagher was more concerned with the reduction of what babies being born in Scandinavian countries, showing fun other real agenda: white supremacy.

But in the face of her disingenuousness and her inability to convince the brown students that they should be anti-gay, marriage she didn't give up. And these folks don't. They go back to their flat and masterminded another diabolical scheme to take away gay people's and women's rights. They cannot be underestimated! They are not just those kooks religious people. They are formidable opponents with sinister agendas. I mean Bishop Sal was trying to deny communion to Catholic women who use birth control or have their man use a condom. Women, guess what Bishop Sal will be working on next? Shaming you and taking away your rights!

What kind of religious leader do you want to follow, one who helps heals, and uplifts people or one who is committed to tearing down the human soul? Gallagher, Bishop Sal, and others like them have made it their life's work to take away LGBT people's rights.

Bishop Sal, I pray that you will stop misusing your power. I pray that you will have a change of heart and use your position and influence to help people like Jesus did. I also invite my Catholic friends and colleagues to examine carefully your investment in the Catholic Church. See where your tithings are going? Wouldn't you feel better knowing your church is using your money to feed, clothe, shelter and educate people in need rather than being used to take away your gay friend's, family member's and colleagues' equality?

Davina Kotulski, Author of Why You Should Give A Damn About Gay Marriage. Oakland

Abolish Marriage

Might Chris Thompson's feelings about Bishop Cordileone be unduly harsh? The article read like a call for the villagers to grab their pitchforks and torches and storm the cathedral at Lake Merritt. It's fun enough for Thompson or the *Express* to have such views, but it's worth considering that the pressing is

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sue for many Prop. 8 supporters is not so much same-sex marriage but, rather, a change in the nature of marriage itself. If California were considering three-way marriages, or marriage to beasts or inanimate objects, then we'd surely see a Prop. 9 or Prop. 10. In other words, the issue isn't "gay" marriage but "changed" marriage.

I think the only way to escape the endless bickering is to separate marriage from the legal system. I believe Michael Kinsley was the first to propose this in his 2003 *Slate* article deceptively titled "Abolish Marriage." If marriage no longer carried legal rights, then it would become completely cultural. Each religious or cultural group could decide for itself which type of marriage(s) are encouraged. One church might marry same-sex couples, another might not. Even if the marriages had no legal significance, they'd still have cultural significance — much like a donor Bat Mitzvah or a Confirmation.

Are there any organizations in the East Bay working for a separation such as this? If so, I'd be interested in reading about them in the *Express*.

David Goldweber, Oakland

Shame on You, Pro-Degenerate Media

It's a pathetic display to see how the pro-degenerates media tries and distorts the meaning of the victory in the ballots of Proposition 8 by assigning credit for it to a single Catholic bishop. Where was Salvatore Cordileone when we, the voters, passed Proposition 22? The only reason for Proposition 8 not winning by a larger margin was because Jerry Brown intentionally changed the wording forcing us to vote "Yes" instead of "No to gay marriages" as it was originally intended thus confusing a lot of people. Twisted logic and labels of "bigots, right wingers, religious nuts, etc." are not going to prevent us, the workers from defending them again whether in 2010 or 2012 for the degenerations of nature are always going to be rejected by the species. It's an instinct for self preservation.

Leo T. West-San Leandro

Pub[illegible]s Sue Oakland, News &

Time for a Lawsuit

My dispute with the City of Oakland over a parking ticket was described as follows. "The citation ... said that she had been parked on Waverly for more than two hours, but Serbin claimed that the parking log's initial time was incorrect."

This is in error. I had, for the second time in the past year, received a ticket after properly entering my vehicle from 23rd to Waverly within the two-hour limit posted on those streets. When I requested the activity sheet for this ticket, it showed that my vehicle was originally spotted on 23rd / Waverly / 27th / Harrison," in other words if I had parked on ANY of these streets and then moved anywhere within this four-block zone within the two-hour limit, I could have received a ticket for a two-hour zone violation. This is in direct violation of the city's own Oakland Municipal Code 10.28.190 which restricts this two-hour limit to a SINGLE street. I appealed this ticket twice and was turned down both times, in spite of the fact that the sheet clearly shows that my initial location was not identified as any one street, but could have been 23rd, 24th, 26th, 27th, Waverly, or Harrison. This has also happened to several of my co-workers, some of whom were mentioned in the same article.

I think it is significant to note that the city of Oakland is illegally setting people up for tickets they do not deserve, and then making it nearly impossible to protest those tickets and have unfair citations overturned. Where does the city define its two-hour zones? Is it five blocks in some areas? Is it ten? Is it an entire neighborhood? And since this violates their own municipal law, what are our options? Appeals rejected automatically, without anyone even looking at or acknowledging the evidence? My first rejection stated that I should submit evidence to back my claim, which I already had but which was ignored. Even my second appeal was rejected, despite the fact that I had them backup for my initial location, was woefully inadequate.

What the city is doing is clearly abusive, and should be stopped by the citizenry. Perhaps a class-action lawsuit? I would be willing participant.

Karen Sarsito, Alameda

Do You Ever Feel Like You've Been Had?

Of all the problems that Oakland has, now we have a parking crisis? What does one say? This parking crisis is one of our own making. It is hard to stay respectful and polite when our members of the city council do something so short-sighted. It is not just the 50 cents an hour; it is not just the extra hours until 8 p.m. It is not just the higher ticket prices. It is the feeling that "gotcha" and anything-goes-for-a-buck is the way they feel. That is what gets under the skin and makes us feel like a crime victim when we get a parking ticket.

They sometimes call us shoppers, sometimes call us residents, sometimes call us taxpayers but they sure do not treat us like citizens. They treat us like someone to milk because they get away with it.

Most of our council did not run in a can tested race to get their job. All but one of the council members represents a district that has nothing to do with where the people of Oakland live, except to make sure that some of those who live in the hills live in each district. But how do they get so out of touch with what it is like to live and work here?

A friend was telling me yesterday that a customer who got a ticket while in her car came back into the cafe and told her that she will never come back again. The cafe owner is in no way responsible for Oakland parking policies, but the anger and frustration of the client was very understandable. We who run businesses in Oakland get to hear how angry the citizens who get caught in this trap feel.

Parking tickets were never a very friendly way to raise funds. The way Oakland does it is something of a trap. It is set up to make it hard on the driver and increase the opportunities to ticket rather than collect parking fees.

When fees and tickets are as aggressive as ours have become, well people notice and they do not care much about the explanations. No one likes to get tricked and cheated. To get one of these tickets is to feel robbed and violated. A 75$ surcharge for a cup of coffee is reason enough to not come to Oakland in the first place. If you live in Oakland and have gotten into your car $75 is reason enough to drive out of Oakland to a place you can park your car without running the gauntlet. Somewhere like Emeryville, Berkeley or San Leandro, for example.

We know this "gotcha" feeling already. Oakland council people at their hearts to stick it to landlords for damaged sidewalks and then do it again if there is a lawsuit. Is that different from how the credit card companies do their best to send bills out as late as possible and up your interest rate for a few hours past due? Newsflash: home and business owners get to pay higher taxes than the old big money under Prop. 13 tax "reform." Yeah we all know the sound of "gotcha."

Now Oakland has made parking your car in our city have that same sound.

Don Mooney, Oakland

Stop Persecuting Motorcycles

Last year, my motorcycle was ticketed for an expired parking receipt even though the receipt was valid and plainly visible — I got the receipt only 30 minutes before the citation was issued and it had another hour left. I filed an objection sending both the parking receipt and citation to the Parking Division. Ten months later my objection was denied. For insufficient information!

I was peeved, not only because denying my objection was either intentionally malleasant or incredibly dumbass, but also because the pay-and-display meters put all motorcycle and scooter riders, not just me, in a no-win situation. Where are we supposed to display the parking receipt that it won't be stolen or even just blown away by the wind? Guess what: nowhere!

So I researched the damn meters and found that most cities using them have made provisions for two-wheeled vehicles. Some cities simply let us park free; some provide special parking slots, free or with meters that don't issue receipts; some rely on parking permits. I also learned that Oakland's City Council was aware of our problem before adopting the new regulations.

I forwarded all this info to my city councilmember, the parking division, the city administration and a few others. Then I filed for an in-person hearing. A couple of days later I got a new notice saying, in effect, "Gee, you gave us enough information after all. The citation is cancelled."

To be fair, in my research I learned that Oakland isn't the only city hurtfully ignoring riders' issues. New York City uses pay-and-display meters, too, and makes no provision for two-wheelers. But the many, many, many smart enough to be considering changes.

Mike Bradley, Oakland

Rates Should Increase

I am disappointed that some of my favorite Oakland businesses have reacted so violently to Oakland's increase in parking meter/hourly-rate patrons, numerous Oakland businesses. I go from there to several goods, things like Grand Bakery's fabulous challah. Dessele's hand picked selection of books. Rakesah Betty's goodies in a unique atmosphere. I'd base all that if I went elsewhere to save a quarter or two on parking meter charges. And it wouldn't even make economic sense — I'd spend more in gas than I saved on the meter, especially if I went all the way out to Walnut Creek as one business owner suggested.

Councilmember Quan is correct about the extension of meter hours. It will keep park

ing spaces available that otherwise would have been snapped up far the night at $600. That's far more discouraging to the would be business patron than paying a little bit tor the space. Many business districts — like South Beach in San Francisco — have long charged for evening parking.

Indeed, today s best parking practice prices spaces so that about 85 percent are full at all times. The public (the city) gets full revenue from thi source rmource of parking, yet drivers can nlways find n space. Rates for different rates and times are detcrmined by surveys of actual use. Ient I'd guess that this policy would lead to as many nu reases in Oakland parking rates as decreases Some cities share that revenue between citywide needs and improvements in the nnighborhood where it is collected providing n direct benefit to local merchants.

This "Great Recession" is a bod time for almost everyonn in the economy so It's not surprising that small businesses are nervous Iint a long-averdin effort lo Oakland to rationalize at least part of its parking polsey shenld not be the victim of that.

Nathan Landau, Oakland

Tickets for Taxation

In Other Parking Enforcement Complaints," tin sidebar to your mam article about tha parking rebellion in Oakland, you note "frustrated drivers worry that [parking tickets are] another city tool for closing the budget gap." Well, worry no mare — at least in Berkeley.!

I was at an orgnnc cafe just west of Hanksville Utnh a couple of months ago when a cnnpln of vacationers walked in. The wom an's companion happened to mention that she was a Berkeley city councilwoman and I said, "Oh Um from Berkeley — what's your name?"

Linda Maio.

I then said, rather pointedly "By the way I've been meaning to talk with yen about the parking situation."

Rolling her eyes and asking her partner

If marriage no longer carried legal "rights," then it would become completely cultural. Each religious or cultural group could decide for itself which type of marriage(s) are encouraged

"Did I really want to have this conversation here?" she said "Well, we have to raise money somehow So there you have it. Wn Berkeleyans needn't "worry" if parking tickets are a "tool for closing the budget gap." They arel

And that's inention in the 21st century: Make up rules that peoplnwill break, make them more aggressive, jack up the rates, and send tha police to collect the taxes.

For her part Linde pointed out that Berkeley is under a lot of stress because the University doesn't pay its share It must ha nside to do so. One way or the nther

But using the police to extort money to cover the budget gap is "inherently" objectionable and on many many levels. Throw the huma out Are they really doing "anything" for us?

John Howe, Berkeley

A t Gowett C o y Wad Rsel n Green Eco \ t • 1

Smart Growth Ain't

As a native, I can't help wishing Berkeley had stopped growing between 1970 and 1980. While it is possible that even denser urban development may reduce people s commutes and consequent greenhouse gases it s more possible that it will length n the commutes of groceries. I have yet to hear n Smart Growth advocate give a good answer for where the food is coming from

As an engineer, I am not thrilled with the wonderfulness of the LEED standards. Their micro-manntee lets obscure the forest (while no doubt extracting stacks of paper for listing) Concepts such as passive solar are chopped into little bits and carefully hidden in plain sight And LEED seems to be blind to choices such as leafblowers and lawnmowers, not to mention the diesel trucks that often chauffer them around

Muriel Strand, SustainableSacramento.blogspot.com, Sacramento

A East Bay Tea l of peas Pa p J B 9 17

Union Leaders? Try Union Misleaders!

It s becoming very clear that by Youngdahl doesn't understand what it is that tin labor movement is facing. To start with what he calls "union leaders," these are actually misleaders most of whom never worked in the trade they represent but are intellectuals with university titles, including lawyers like Mr Youngdahl who think they know it all, who started working in the union hall and climbed up from there. Their strategy is to collect the dues; therefore tin strike doesn't enter into their plans at all as exemplified in the BART negotiations, where workers are blackmailed into submission by making them vote until they "get it right" and agree to the concessions demanded by management In this respect Robert Garaumn nlso wrote a little shiny note ending with BART's management in solidarity with his colleagues at the *Oakland Tribune*

The contract that the AFU misleaders are putting up for vote to its members nmong other concessions screws up tin new hires by increasing the waiting time to be entitled to retirement benefits from five years to fifteen A greet way to divide the workers! Courtesy of your misleaders

Management is always ready to show the books when they're really losing money but, when times are good, they still demand concessions and the books are not available. At NUMMI Toyota started to blackmail the workers right after GM decided to withdraw, with the support of state Democrats and corrupt, sell-out union misleaders. On the national level criminal union misleadership has been pouring workers money into the coffers of the Democratic Party to get Barack Obama elected and the workers get record unemployment illegal seab l'ng and not even support for the bureaucrats' pet issue, The "Employee Free Choice Act."

OBAMA, YO MAMMA!!!

Antonio Trassero, San Leandro

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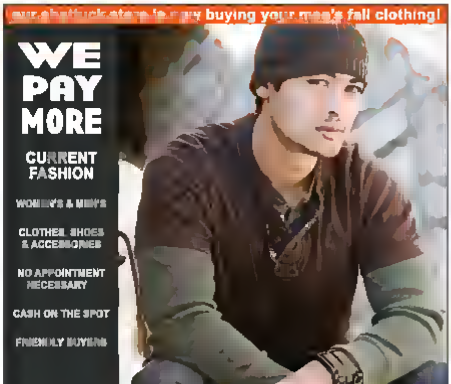
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BART LEAOERS GUT POLICE PLAN

Agency officials secretly weakened a police oversight plan to gain approval
Plus two UC Berkeley employees help crack bizarre kidnapping case

By Robert Gammon

After a BART cop killed Oscar Grant, it became clear that the agency's police department needed better oversight. Public outrage over the killing prompted the BART board of directors to devise a plan that included a citizens review panel that would investigate police misconduct. Some critics said the oversight plan was unduly tough, though but the proposal appeared to be a positive step and the BART board approved it last month But then two weeks ago some members of the board secretly gutted the plan In an attempt to gain approval from the Legislature.

Under the watered down plan, the BART board would no longer have power over police discipline Instead, authority would be left to the BART police chief and the agency s general manager. So if the citizens review panel recommended that a police officer be suspended or fired for misconduct the chief or the general manager could ignore that advice and the elected board would have no recourse other then to fire the officials. In other words the new oversight proposal contains no meaningful reform

Assemblyman Sandre Swanson of Alameda who is carrying the plan in the Legislature said BART leadership decided to weaken it because of opposition by a state police officers group. Swanson said BART leaders realized they could never get legislators to approve the plan before their year end recess if it faced significant opposition from the Peace Officers Research Association of California Such opposition would require legislative hearings thereby postponing a vote until next year So agency leaders decided to water down the plan because they are determined to have some version of it in place before the one-year anniversary, of Oscar Grant s death.

The closed-door decision raises questions about public transparency and whether the new plan has the support of the entire board. Agency spokesman Linton Johnson said the full board was informed of the changes last week but had no plans to hold hearings or vote on it He said the agency views the revised plan as a stopgap measure and hopes the Legislature will approve the original proposal sometime next year The revised measure could appease some but in reality s not much better than the current system which so far has only held one person responsible in the death of an innocent, unarmed man.

UC Berkeley Helps Nab Rapist

It s no secret that Christian proselytizers have descended on Sproul Plaza in increasing numbers in recent years Philip Craig Garrido of Antioch apparently wanted in on the action. But that led to two UC Berkeley employees helping to nab the fiend, who allegedly kidnapped eleven-year-old Jaycee Lee Dugard roped her fathered her two children and forced her and her kids to live in squalid conditions for eighteen years. UC Berkeley special events manager Lisa Campbell said that she first realized something was strange about Garrido when he showed up with his two "rebel" like daughters and said he wanted to discuss holding an event rallied "God s Desire " according to the *Contra Costa Times* UC Berkeley police officer Allyson Jacobs also thought Garrido strange, so she checked him out and quickly discovered he was a registered sex offender .She then called his parole officer, who later got Garrido to admit to kidnapping Dugard in 1991.

Housing Up and Way Down

A national housing index reported the first quarterly rise in the housing market in three years, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle* The S&P/Case Schiller index grew 2.9 percent for the three months ending June 30 — the first increase since 2005 in the Bay Area..it showed a 3.6 percent rise But some economists credited the upturk to the government s $8,000 tax credit for first time home buyers. The credit is scheduled to expire November 30 and if Congress does not extend it then housing prices could tank again

At the same time the *Chronicle* reported that the Bay Area is swamped with very cheap properties especially in Oakland, Richmond Pittsburg, Antioch and Vallejo. Condos listing for as low as $20 000 to $30 000 are becoming more common in are single-family homes of less then $60 000 Same real estate professionals say banks are increasingly pricing homes aggressively to unload their However, many of the properties need a lot rehabbing.

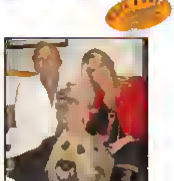
Three-Dot Roundup

Toyota announced the closing of the NUMMI auto plant in Fremont next March. The plant was damaged s County largest private employer with 4,700 workers but its closure could result in the loss of up to 50 000 area jobs because so many other businesses depend on it .... BART drivers and station agents officially agreed to a new contract after threatening to strike and getting no public sympathy Berkeley s new downtown plan appears headed for the ballot .. Oakland police arrested the foster parents of little Hasanni Campbell on suspicion of killing the five-year-old Fremont boy and then making up a story about him going missing in Rockridge..... Another innocent bystander was killed after Oakland police followed an erratic driver on a high-speed chase through a residential neighborhood. Prosecutors charged the driver with rounder Marquita Bailey of Pittsburg was the third innocent person killed in a high-speed police pursuit in the East Bay this year US Attorney General Eric Holder announced that his office would investigate CIA interrogations but not top officials who authorized torture, such as UC Berkeley professor John Yoo. .. And Fox News host Glenn Beck, who lost dozens of sponsors after calling Barack Obama a "racist " used a 2005 Express article to attack Van Jones an Oakland activist who became an adviser to the president. ●

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ECO WATCH

THE BATTLE OVER THE BIG DITCH

A fight has broken out among environmentalists over a newly proposed peripheral canal. Backers say it could save the delta and protect our water supply, but critics contend it will do more harm than good

By Robert Gammon

When a proposal for a peripheral canal came before voters in 1982 environmentalists universally opposed it. The canal, which would have run around the west side of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, was rightly viewed at the time as a water grab by Southern California developers and Central Valley agribusiness. But since then the delta's ecosystem has nearly collapsed and its fragile levees have continued to crumble. As a result, the governor and state legislative leaders are once again discussing a peripheral canal plan, and this time it's creating a schism in the environmental community.

Proponents of the canal, which include the Nature Conservancy, say neither the delta's severe ecological problems nor the state's water shortage can be solved without it. "The delta has not worked, and is not working," said Lee Wintermute, delta project director for the Nature Conservancy. Proponents also point to the work of UC Davis' Jeffrey Mount, who probably knows more about the delta's levees than anyone and says that without a peripheral canal a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault would collapse the levees and inundate the delta with saltwater, thereby destroying the freshwater supply of more than two-thirds of the state's residents.

However, opponents, including Friends of the River and the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance, say a canal would rob the delta of essential freshwater at a time when major fisheries, including salmon, are already in serious trouble. They also maintain that if the state builds a giant canal as proposed, Southern California interests and big agribusiness will exert political pressure to divert even more freshwater in the future, thereby ensuring the delta's destruction. "The problem is that no one wants to talk about the elephant in the room," said Bill Jennings, executive director of the fishing protection alliance. "California has already over-appropriated its water supply."

Currently, there are no immediate plans for a peripheral canal. Instead, the legislature has been holding hearings on establishing a statewide commission that would have extensive power over the delta and could authorize a canal. The commission idea is being pushed by state Senator Joe Simitian, a Democrat whose constituents in Santa Clara County depend on the delta for freshwater supplies. Governor Schwarzenegger also supports a canal, along with building new dams.

Understanding the current canal debate requires a bit of background on how the delta "works." The delta gets its freshwater from some of Northern California's largest rivers — the Sacramento, the San Joaquin, and the Mokelumne. But the delta was altered substantially in the past century, first by the construction of levees to make way for farms, and then by the creation of the State Water Project, which has been siphoning about 6 million acre feet of water a year and sending it south. Fresh water from the delta is supposed to flow into San Francisco Bay, but instead a substantial portion of it is sucked through pumps in the southern delta near Tracy. This water then slakes the thirst of more than 22 million Californians, as it is — including most of the southern Central Valley, Southern California, and much of Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties. Most of Alameda County, including Berkeley, Oakland, and Alameda, gets its water directly from the Mokelumne River before it empties into the delta.

But the changes to the delta have caused several major problems. First, the siphoning of freshwater has severely damaged the delta's health and brought fisheries to the brink of extinction. In addition, millions of fish, particularly the Delta Smelt, are shredded each year in the giant pumps. And finally, the pumps reverse the natural flow of water in the delta, thereby trapping migrating fish and making them more vulnerable to predators. "It's a black hole — fish get caught there and can't get out," Wintermute explained.

Proponents of the canal contend that it will eliminate fish shredding and help plug the black hole. Under a plan floating around the capitol, the peripheral canal would take freshwater from the Sacramento River before it reaches the delta and then divert it around the delta to the southern pumps. State-of-art fish screens, in turn, would keep fish out of the canal. In addition, the canal would act as a safe harbor for the state's freshwater supply in case of a major quake.

Some opponents of the canal, on the other hand, refer it derisively as the "Big Ditch," because it could be nearly as large as the Panama Canal, running up to 50 miles in length and extending up to 700 feet in width. And with a potential $15 billion price tag, the canal could do more harm than good. Currently, freshwater from the Sacramento flows through the delta on its way to the southern pumps. But a canal would siphon a substantial amount of freshwater before it reaches delta in the first place. The absence of essential freshwater in turn, could turn the delta much more salty, thereby ruining fish habitat and leaving delta farmers without enough water for their crops.


It's unclear what impact a proposed peripheral canal would have on the delta, but one thing is clear: the delta in its current state isn't working.

Some environmental groups say they'll fight the canal unless there are ironclad guarantees of enough freshwater for the delta. "It needs more freshwater than it has been getting for the past several decades," said Tina Swanson, executive director of the Bay Institute. "We have exceeded the capacity of the system." But other groups are less confident that any such guarantees will ever be made. "We could be convinced to support a peripheral canal if we were having discussions about what we need to do about fisheries, but we are not," said Jeff Miller of the Center for Biological Diversity, which has fought several court battles to protect the smelt. "Instead we're having this massive infrastructure project jammed down our throats."

Other environmental groups, meanwhile, likely won't support a peripheral canal under any circumstances. They argue that the fish shredding problem could be greatly improved right away if the state were to install proper screens in front of the southern pumps. They also advocate shoring up levees to protect against future quakes. And they say that once a canal is built, any guarantees about freshwater flows in the delta will bow to future political pressures from the East Bay, the South Bay, Southern California, and big agribusiness.

From the perspective of Bill Jennings at the fishing protection alliance, the delta's problems will continue until California stops subsidizing water-intensive crops in the dry southern and western Central Valley. He notes that agribusiness already takes 70 to 80 percent of the state's developed water, and a significant portion of it is wasted on nonessential, nonnative crops that represent only a fraction of California's economy. "We can serve our urban water needs, and we can serve most of our agricultural needs, but we can't continue to subsidize farming in the desert," he said, adding, "We have to ask ourselves, how much do we sacrifice of this public resource for benefit of a small sector of the economy." ●

Got green ideas? Send tips for stories to EcoWatch@EastBayExpress.com.

A SOLUTION TO PARKING IN OAKLAND?

A UCLA professor says the city should raise or lower parking meter prices based on whether parking spots are available. San Francisco is about to try it.

By Robert Gammon

When the Oakland City Council gets back to business this month the controversy over parking meters will be one of the most contentious issues it faces. The council's vote in late June to extend meter hours and raise parking prices sparked a strong backlash in Oakland's retail community. Some retailers say the changes have driven away customers and they're demanding that councilmembers reverse course. And while it's possible that some members of the council will do so, they should also take a closer look at what other cities are doing — especially San Francisco and Redwood City.

Those two cities are among several nationwide that are testing the theories of UCLA professor **Donald Shoup**, who has become a sort of parking guru for his research on market-based pricing. Shoup believes that the price people should pay for parking depends directly on how difficult it is to find a parking place. If there are no spots available then parking meter prices are too low. And if there's plenty of parking, then prices are likely too high. "It's about getting the price right," he told Full Disclosure in an interview last week. "You don't want to charge $1 an hour in a business district that is half empty. If you do, then the price is too high."

According to Shoup, you know you have reached the right price when about 85 percent of the parking spaces are full. At that capacity, a business district should thrive, while still leaving enough empty spaces so that new shoppers won't have to search for a place to park. The professor also believes that cities should reinvest at least a portion of parking proceeds back into the neighborhoods from which they came in the form of sidewalk improvements and other amenities. That way, you get buy-in from local retailers.



Ride Gammon

San Francisco and Redwood City are both about to implement Donald Shoup's parking recommendations.

Consequently, Shoup believes the Oakland City Council made several errors in its parking program. First, the council shouldn't be using parking meters as a cash register for its general fund, he said. "You shouldn't set the price to raise money, but to manage supply," he explained.

Second, the council is micromanaging when it sets parking meter prices for every district in the city, he said. Instead, the council should delegate those responsibilities to city staffers who then set prices based on how difficult it is to park. As a result, it makes no sense for parking prices to be the same in busy districts, such as Rockridge and Lakeshore, as they are in less crowded areas. In addition, parking meter prices should fluctuate during the day based on how tough it is to find a place to park. It makes no sense, Shoup said, to charge the same price at 8 a.m. when stores are closed as at 1 p.m. during the height of the lunchtime rush.

As for people who say they won't shop in a busy business district unless they can park for free, Shoup says cities and retailers should ignore them. "They will be replaced by people who will pay," he said. "And if you're a writer who wants a bigger tip, run a business that wants people to spend more, who would you rather have as a customer — someone who will only come if they can park for free, or someone who is willing to pay?"

San Francisco is about to embark on the most ambitious market-based pricing program in the country based on Shoup's work. It's called SF Park, and beginning early next year the city will set prices at 6,000 parking meters and 12,250 city-owned garage spaces based on how difficult it is to find parking. The city's Municipal Transportation Agency will monitor parking availability in each of the test areas and then gradually raise or lower prices every four weeks in each district until one out of every ten spaces is open at any given time. "The goal is to make it easy for people to find a parking space, so that they don't double park or circle the block repeatedly looking for a space," explained **Jay Primus**, manager of SF Park. During the two-year test, rates will not only fluctuate by block, but also at different hours of the day.

San Francisco however is not following all of Shoup's recommendations. First, revenues from the program will go neither to the business districts nor the city's general fund, but to MUNI for public transportation improvements. Second, the city has not yet decided whether to extend meter hours into the evening or to allow for unlimited evening parking for a price. And finally, the city's test program may not be exactly transferrable to Oakland, because it will cost $24.75 million to implement — 80 percent of which comes from a federal grant.

Oakland, however, may be able to do a much cheaper test. A subcommittee of the finance committee of San Francisco's program will pay for new parking meters and electronic street sensors that tell when a space is occupied. Oakland can't afford to buy sensors without securing a grant of its own, but it has a big leg up on San Francisco, because it has already installed most space parking meters in several business districts. The kinks are perfect for Shoup's program because prices can be changed easily and because they allow for credit card payment. Letting people pay with credit cards is essential, because it means they don't have to stock up on coins or keep track of changing prices.

Redwood City, meanwhile chose to simply implement Shoup's theories rather than test them. The Peninsula city is using market-based pricing in its downtown and then directs the revenues back to the downtown in the form of improvements. Redwood City also has multi-space kiosks that take credit cards, and it allows people to park for as long as they want if they pay for it. "As long there is always a space available when people show up, who needs time limits?" said **Patrick Siegman**, a principal at the consulting firm Nelson/Nygaard which has advised Redwood City and San Francisco, along with other cities, on their parking programs. Siegman said both San Diego and Ventura also are testing Shoup's theories.

So will market-based pricing work in Oakland? If the Oakland defeats needs to examine it," said Councilwoman **Pat Kernighan** who represents the Grand and Lakeshore business districts where the council's changes have received the most criticism. Kernighan has expressed a desire to roll back the meter hours to 6 p.m. as they were before, although she says city staff told her such a move could cost Oakland $4.3 million in revenues and force the council to slash even more from the city's already lean budget. Kernighan also noted however that Oakland has never conducted a thorough examination of how its parking policies and rates affect retailers, sales tax revenues, and overall economic development in the city.

As for the retailers the most vocal critic has been **Allen Michaan**, owner of the Grand Lake Theater. Michaan said he was aware of Shoup and his research, but said he doesn't think it will work in Oakland because the city is surrounded by other cities with thriving shopping districts. If Oakland were to raise parking prices in any of its business districts then shoppers could simply head to Alameda, Berkeley, or Emeryville, he said. "It might work in San Francisco but not all communities are the same," he said. "For instance, Oakland has a bad reputation for crime. It's a perception real or not. But it is there. And then if you add overpriced parking and you add on a lower priced parking ticket it creates more animosity toward the city."

Michaan is most angry about the parking ticket increase, the zealousness of parking meter attendants and the extension of meter hours to 6 p.m. But he also indicated that parking meter prices are too high because he said a city-owned parking lot next to the Grand Lake Theater (Kernighan said the same thing). He said his business is down considerably and in mid-September he plans to stop offering weekday matinees Monday through Thursday because they aren't worth it. The move, he said, will force him to lay off employees since their hours.

While it is tough to watch successful Oakland retailers hurting, Michaan's experience may be more of an argument for Shoup's theories than against them. If Oakland adopted market-based pricing and found too many empty parking spaces near the Grand Lake during the daytime then the city could just lower prices until 85 to 90 percent of spots became full. But as it stands, the city has no way of adjusting, properly for Grand Lake without affecting other business districts — possibly unnecessarily — and without hurting its bottom line. ●

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This video displays the exact moment at which Oscar Grant was shot by officer Johannes Mehserle

RACIAL BIAS EXISTS. CAN WE TRAIN COPS TO DEAL WITH IT?

The Oscar Grant shooting calls into question police training for critical incidents.

By Micky Duxbury

There have been well more than one million Internet viewings of the video showing the killing of Oscar Grant. The grainy and often chaotic video shows Grant sitting on the BART platform with his arms ob ve his head. Then he is on his knees with his arms outstretched, looking as though he is trying to protect himself. Several officers pull him face down on the platform and after what appears to be a struggle, Officer Johannes Mehserle steps back, pulls a gun and shoots Grant in the back.

President Obama has described the incident between Henry Louis Gates and his Cambridge police as a "teachable moment." Across both the country and the political spectrum, the role that racism, rage, and racial bias might have played in that incident has been dissected and analyzed. In the Bay Area we have a "teachable hour" when it comes to the New Year's Day killing of Grant. That hour could be used to look at whether police training adequately addresses the possibility that police officers' perception of danger can be influenced by racial bias.

The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training is mandated to train for critical incidents and the use of lethal force. The commission was established by the California Legislature in 1959 to set minimum selection and training standards for state law enforcement. Every police officer in California, including BART police, receives his or her training from a curriculum developed by the commission.

"All BART officers are trained for critical incidents and the situation with Oscar Grant was one of those," said Sergeant John M. Sandoval, a spokesperson for the BART Police Department's Personnel and Training Section. "But each incident is unique. The officer's reactions will be different when the adrenaline is going, and whether he is a new or seasoned officer. You don't know how you are going to react and we cannot train for every possible incident. Each critical incident that an officer has helps him deal better with the next one." And yet the cumulative effects of Mehserle learning from other criminal incidents obviously did not save Oscar Grant.

When asked if Mehserle's training addressed how racial bias might influence the way that officers react in crisis situations, Sandoval said that the training does not get into that degree of specificity. All BART officers do evidently view a video on racial profiling, said Sandoval, who offered to arrange a viewing of the video. But that opportunity was rescinded after BART spokesperson Linton Johnson wrote in e-mail that "the opportunity to review training videos is no longer available." Johnson then referred all inquiries to BART's outside legal counsel attorney Dale Allen.

Allen was asked if BART's police training addressed the possibility that responses to critical incidents might be influenced by racial bias. After conferring with the BART board, Allen returned with a polite "no comment."

Training in when to use lethal force didn't seem to make Officer Mehserle pause before firing that fatal shot. Would a different kind of training have made make it less likely that an unarmed man lying face down would be shot in the back?

Officer Mehserle is said to have received much of his basic police training at the Napa Police Academy. Although director Damien Sandoval would not confirm or deny that Mehserle attended the academy, he said he is not sure that any curriculum could get at the extent to which attitudes about race might play a role in incidents involving lethal force. "Our training covers the use of lethal force and racial profiling, but do we try to assess what is going on in the mind of an individual officer?" Sandoval said. "All people receive lessons about race bias cuts across racial lines. How do you get underneath one person's life's experiences to look at their possible behavior under stress?"

If police academy curricula don't address that issue, who does? Sandoval said that many BART police officers attend the Museum of

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Tolerance in Los Angeles, where training seeks to strengthen ethical decision making. Training program director Sunny Lee-Goodman said the problem with racial bias is getting people to acknowledge it. It comes down to providing a safe enough environment to have a nondefensive discussion without fear of repercussions or litigation," Lee-Goodman said. "No one wants to be accused of being a racist, so we find ways to get officers to look at their bias without the fear of being labeled. By the time you get to a critical incident, if you have not thought this through, it might be too late."

Matters related to racial profiling are complex, notes Bast Palo Alto Police Chief Ronald Davis, an expert on the topic. "Most officers are trying to do the right things for the right reasons, but may be unaware of their biases," said Davis, who formerly worked at the Oakland Police Department. "All officers — white, black, or Latino — can be influenced by bias because the greatest creator of bias is experience. If all officers do is stop black males in baggy pants, some of whom are dealing drugs, what is going to happen to that officer? The more you get officers to engage with diverse communities in nonenforcement, nonadversarial relationships, the more officers can start judging people by their behavior and not by their racial profile."

Community policing is an admirable goal, but it takes extra time and money, when cash cities are struggling. What to do in the meantime about officers with conscious or unconscious racial biases? We have methods we can use to screen out the obvious racists," Davis said. "The bigger problem is the screening of the larger percentage of officers that might have implicit bias that they are not even aware of."

That is precisely what the latest research in racial stereotyping and criminality shows. Jennifer Eberhardt is professor of social psychology at Stanford University and is the founder of the Policing Racial Bias Project. The project's goal is to develop partnerships between social psychologists and law enforcement in order to share information and generate new research on the influence of racial bias in policing. Eberhardt and her colleagues argue that the association of black Americans with criminality lowers the threshold for what constitutes a threatening and dangerous. And over the last five years, we have been examining what that means in the context of policing."

In one of Eberhardt's studies, participants were exposed to black or white faces shown so rapidly that they could not be detected. Then subjects were shown partially degraded objects that were slowly brought into focus. Some were crime objects like guns and knives and some were not relevant to crime at all. "What we found is that if the participants were subliminally exposed to black male faces, that exposure led them to detect the crime objects sooner," Eberhardt said. "Exposure to white faces actually *inhibited* their detection of crime objects. Blacks were significantly more likely to be seen as criminals and whites were not only seen in a neutral way, but were seen as less criminal."

Eberhardt pointed to Joshua Correll's work at the University of Chicago as having additional ramifications for police training. "Correll's subjects are looking at scenes with either black or white people popping up. Some of them have weapons and some do not and the subjects have to respond with a shoot button. What they found is that subjects were faster to shoot when they saw a black person with a gun than when they saw a white person with a gun. They were also much more likely to make an error by shooting a black person without a gun than they were if it was a white person without a gun."

Lorie Fridell an associate professor of criminology at the University of South Florida is one of the developers of a new project called Racially Biased Policing Training, funded by the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. "We train recruits to see when their policing is based on stereotypes and they learn that important policing makes them safer and more effective as well as more just," Fridell said. "Anytime you hire human beings, and police are human beings, you are going to run into implicit bias. By characterizing that problem as not just about bad people but about well-meaning people that are human like the rest of us, it changes the nature of the discussion."

Chief Davis is glad to see the application of Eberhardt's research in new police training. "When bias attaches criminality to one group, it raises fears and can lead to officers being overreactive," he said. "No one would deny that we live in a society where racism still exists, and police departments, like all organizations, are reflective of our society. Either we work harder to keep biases in check or we will keep having disparate outcomes, and minority communities will keep losing trust and confidence."

When asked what gives her hope for the future in the face of pervasive racial bias Eberhardt says it's African American leaders who say "I become involved with law enforcement to try to change the dialogue about the role of race and policing. The dominant impression of someone that is racially biased is that they are bad people who are motivated to act in bad ways. But research has shown us that racial bias is much more pervasive than that. The fact is that we are all implicated. It provides blackness with danger and crime. So we have to deal with that — all of us — not just people that have anti-black attitudes. We are all victims of this and we need to work together to develop solutions."

Police are just like the rest of us. They have grown up in a society that has a long, sad troubled history with racism, so they have developed stereotypic biases — biases that have been proven to cut across racial lines. Research shows that when police are trained to be aware of those biases, they are able to make changes so that their policing can become more fair and equitable. There is hope in this new approach to police training, but it will be years before it is used nationwide and more research is needed before it can be incorporated into training for critical incidents, especially those involving lethal force.

The discrepancy between that hope and the reality of police shootings of people of color is a chasm of such magnitude that it defies description. "The disparity between how some police treat young black men was evident on the videotapes of Oscar Grant's killing," said Jakada Imani, executive director of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. "Make no mistake about it, if a bunch of black police had a few white young men on a BART platform, and one of them then was killed like this, you would have seen immediate arrests and you would have seen the police chief of BART fired. Many folks might want to believe that we live in a post-racial era when, in fact, we do not. The life of young black men has to mean something more than what it does — not just to the police, but to the whole society." ●

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Doug Hamilton

The musical *American Idiot* came about when Tony Award-winning director Michael Mayer casually told an interviewer that he wanted to stage it. Soon he was meeting with Billie Joe Armstrong and the other members of Green Day.

Punk Rock Opera

Green Day electrifies musical theater at the Berkeley Rep with *American Idiot*. By David Bean

Global superstar and Green Day vocalist Billie Joe Armstrong had somewhat one-dimensional ideas about musicals before green lighting *American Idiot* the punkest-up rock opera debuting at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre on Friday, September 5.

"I mean, I've taken my kid to see *The Lion King* before," says the mid-thirtysomething, who's been married fifteen years. "And it's like we might as well be going to a Jonas Brothers concert or something."

For a band that's made its millions on speed, pot masturbation paranoia teen angst and suicide, the world of chorus lines and saccharine, sappy arias just didn't seem to fit. Thanks to *Mamma Mia* it doesn't have to.

The rock opera adaptation of Green Day's multiplatinum 2004 smash *American Idiot* is going to challenge the very definitions of punk, theater, and musical. The 75 plus minute performance with a cast of 19 tells a *Fight Club*-esque story of self-discovery through death and destruction, yet it uses no words outside of the lyric content of the album. The full album is played from beginning to end live by a band (not Green Day) and interwoven with B-sides as well as three songs from the band's new album *21st Century Breakdown* including the hit "21 Guns."

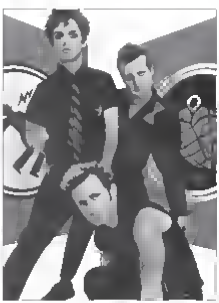
After eight albums and almost twenty years together as a band — a near impossible feat these days — Green Day has undertaken its ballsiest and most experimental project yet. Taken with the unprecedented press shine now on the forty-year-old Berkeley Rep, as well as the fact that the project employs dozens of local artists amid a searing arts recession — and this musical might be the most boundary violating, "punk" thing Green Day has ever done.

The story of the Billie Joe Armstrong, bassist Mike Dirnt, and drummer Tre Cool has ascended to the status of legend. Emerging from the East Bay's punk rock scene of the early 1990s, they played fast, simple, snarling jams cut with melody and a cleverness that helped them break out from the pop-punk pack at the time (Blink 182 anybody?) *Kerplunk* in 1992 and the single "Welcome to Paradise" softened up the beachhead for 1994's major-label debut *Dookie* on Reprise, which did fifteen million in global sales. *Insomniac* in 1995 *Nimrod* in 1997 and *Warning* in 2000 propelled the band far from the punk rock ghetto and set the stage for 2004's gargantuan *American Idiot*.

"It was something that I've always wanted to do, hoping that I had the guts to be able to do it," Armstrong said. "You have to take everything you learned and take a huge risk. You just evolve as a person and figure out what's important to you. Being a rock star can be a really positive thing. It just kind of depends on the way you go about it.

Armstrong says *Idiot* was the band accepting stardom ditching the shackles of punk's rules and redoing everything on a decades-old form, the rock opera. After an aborted attempt to make a more traditional album called *Cigarettes and Valentines*, Green Day channeled *The Wall Tommy* and maybe a little of the Broadway musical *Oliver!*

Written and recorded in Oakland and Los Angeles, *American Idiot* includes the nine-minute five-part punk rock call to arms "Jesus of Suburbia." Hooked on soda pop and Ritalin



there's nothing wrong with this "Jesus." *This is how I'm supposed to be/In a land of make believe/they don't believe in me*

Jesus dallies with the military but ultimately travels from the suburbs to the city where he meets his doppelganger the self-destructive "St. Jimmy" whose theme is a classic punk trait: fast, simple dirty and short — clocking in at 2:55. Drugs emerge as an ender in "Give Me Novacaine" while transcendence comes in the form of female archetype, "Whatsername," who appears on "She's a Rebel" and "Extraordinary Girl."

"Letterbomb" delivers the anarchic climax to St. Jimmy then "Wake Me Up When September Ends" confronts the death of the hero's father offering little solace. The messy five-part nine-minute Homecoming" loosely sews up the narrative, with "Jesus" finding himself through the love of Whatsername and by becoming a rock star. It's ridiculous and ambitious and filled with more hooks than a fishing boat and it went on to sell more than fourteen million copies worldwide.

Among the long list of new fanatics was Tony Award-winning musical director Michael Mayer who in 2006 was in Los Angles filming *Rickie and* blasting *Idiot* from his car on the freeways of LA.

"Holiday was the first single I heard," Mayer said. "And then, around the time Boulevard of Broken Dreams came out I was, like, Holy fuck. Holy shit. Who are these guys that can write such beautiful poetic stuff? and I listened to the whole album and I was really dazzled by it: the political agenda, the urgency of the message, and the poetry really of both the music and the lyrics. They were completely bedazzling to me. And I was obsessed with it, so I listened to it all the time."

Continued on page 16



Doug Hamilton





Punk Rock Opera

Continued from page 15

Mayer used *Idiot* professionally as a sort of language to describe elements of a new musical he was working on at the time called *Spring Awakening*, which went on to win a Tony Award for best musical in 2007.

"So I started referring to it while we did *Spring Awakening*, and it just fielded something in my head. I thought, Jesus, this is ready to go. I could actually imagine other characters. What would it be like if you took some of those songs and pulled them apart and gave certain lyrics to other people instead of just this single voice?"

While rock critics were writing the words "anthemic" Mayer physically saw large groups of people singing in his head.

"I started to imagine it in my head while driving the Pacific Coast Highway. I would think, God that would be so cool to see a whole community of people past teenage years. They're not kids. They're adults but their lives haven't happened yet — the sort of disenfranchised young adults of America. The suburban wasteland that makes it almost impossible for anyone to imagine anything else than what's right in front of them.

"And I thought, well, being kids and with the drugs and the popping Ritalin someone else's cocaine all the trappings described so eloquently in Jesus of Suburbia. I knew that in reality, for a lot of people. And living in these horrible dark ages of the Bush administration was as frustrating and despairing as it was — God — I saw. This stuff is real and people are connecting to it. I thought, they're personally giving voice to a whole generation of Americans who have probably felt completely disenfranchised and completely apathetic and unable to effect any change."

Mayer flippantly told *Rolling Stone* and *Variety* that he'd love to do *American Idiot* for his next project and then Mozart called him to get it together. Mozart's real name is Tom Hulce nominated for an Academy Award for playing Mozart in the film *Amadeus*. He appeared in the movies *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* and *Jumper* and was nominated for a Tony Award for his role in the play *A Few Good Men*.

"He calls me and he goes 'I just read your interview in *Variety* are you serious about *American Idiot*?'" Mayer recalled. "And I said, 'Totally.' And he said, 'Well, let's try to make that happen. And I said 'Ha ha ha, okay. Knock yourself out, because I thought 'There's no fucking way. Someone's either doing it already or they're not going to be interested. Tom can get people on the phone that a lot of other people can't because he's number one a first-class artist in his own right, and he's got a long career and fantastic relationships."

Hulce and Mayer met with Green Day's manager and agent and Mayer pitched his idea of adding characters and lengthening *Idiot*. Armstrong was interested, so the band flew out to New York to watch *Spring Awakening* — which uses the alt rock of Duncan Sheik to adapt a banned German play from 1891 about puberty, masturbation, sex, pregnancy, suicide, abortion and death in a deeply repressive, religious country where the adults are suspect themselves.

"It just sounded fitting," Armstrong said. "I didn't know who they were or anything at the time, but when I saw that, I knew they were brilliant. What they were doing was kind of revolutionary. The audience was onstage. It was based off a turn-of-the-century play, and yet all the subject matter is totally current. I see that and the way they approached it with real feelings and real sort of life — they're artists, you know?"

The cast of *Spring Awakening* and the Green Day trio went out for drinks at a local theater hangout, and Mayer left with an exclusive right to develop a reading of the rock opera. In a way, *Idiot* was a logical follow-up to *Awakening*, because issues of God, country, and identity often follow the formative crises of puberty and adolescence.

Mayer wrote it

Continued on page 18



Mayer added characters to flesh out the story of *American Idiot*. Kevin Bartie

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Doug Hamilton

Mayer speaks with Olivier Award-winning choreographer Steven Hoggett, Tony Award-winning actor John Gallagher, and performer Tony Vincent in rehearsals.

Punk Rock Opera

Continued from page 16

mast weeks calling Armstrong to talk story and character development. "Jesus of Suburbia" became "Johnny," alongside main characters St. Jimmy and Whatsername as well as a bigger cast of drawers, anarchists and artists driven from the East Bay arts scene. The set drew from the grungy warehouse spaces of Berkeley and costumes from the late Bush years. Johnny and St. Jimmy emerged as *Fight Club*-like splits of the same character.

"St. Jimmy is kind of the Brad Pitt and Jesus of Suburbia, Johnny is sort of the Ed Norton," Meyer said. "Is he a real person or are they parts of the same person? And Billie Joe confirmed that was of great interest to him."

The show included no dialogue or normal words. "I thought a lot about whether Billie Joe and I should craft some dialogue. What became very clear right away, except for little letters that Johnny writes, I felt like the songs are so articulate. And when you put them in the mouths of characters who are living and breathing in front of you — Will sitting on the couch and lighting up a joint and singing the first part of 'Novacaine' while he's staring at TV — you understand what his circumstances are. What more do you need to be saying? It's so clear."

After months of development and the addition of a musical arranger and choreographer and a cast of twelve that included Meyer's lead from *Spring Awakening*, Armstrong was scheduled to watch a reading. If he liked it, the whole band would watch one. If not, the project stopped.

"We sort of hit the bullet, but what happened was the entire band came and I was just dying," Meyer said. "We read through the whole thing, about seventy minutes long nonstop. The kids did a fabulous job. I could not look over at the band. I was so scared and at the end of it they gave the kids a standing ovation. They were wildly enthusiastic and gave me lots of really great input."

"It's amazing," Armstrong said. "People are going to be blown away."

At the same time, Hulce got in touch with his longtime friends at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre to set up a reputable yet intimate home for the show in Green Day's backyard. The Rep's history of producing edgy stuff and its career are from a little garage playhouse to regional powerhouse paralleled Green Day's rise in many ways, said Susan Medak, the Rep's managing director. At least twelve years of edgy, experimental multimedia material laid the groundwork for Hulce's pharse, said Medak. No other theater was in the running to host the event. "I've known Tom for 25 years, back when he was playing a young Romeo," Medak said with a laugh.

After a trip to New York to make sure everyone was on the same page, the Rep slated *American Idiot* — its first-ever musical — as the opening show of its annual program. The phone has rang off the hook ever since, Medak said.

The recession has been murder on the arts, and Rep operations had to be slashed 18 percent this year, she said. But *American Idiot* has become the fastest advance seller in the Rep's history. Almost every night is sure to be sold out in the 600-person Roda Theatre — which buffers the modern multimedia accommodations and size for such a huge endeavor.

"It's been hysterical," Medak said. "There are some Green Day fans who are nervous because they assume, and I think it's legitimate, that we're going to mess with the material or it's going to be Green Day onstage. It's not going to be the band on stage."

Of course, with fame has come some attendant headaches, Medak said.

"We have only fewer than 600 seats in the theater and there are thousands who want in here for opening night. We rarely have to deal with problems with scalpers, and already we're doing everything we can to advise ticket buyers not to buy if a deal appears too good to be true. It probably is."

If the show does well, it could tour the world. Meyer said he has no plan if he's going to be the only one who likes *Idiot*. On one hand, the process feels like a smooth alignment of the stars.

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On the other hand, he sees where the piece needs work.

"I'm terrified," he said. "We're not turning a movie into a musical where everybody knows the story already and has certain expectations. This is an original story in a way, and the material we have to tell the story in these songs and it's really a wonderful, exciting, and terrifying challenge."

Armstrong is more sanguine. "I keep seeing it from a standpoint where I'll get a couple of months where you don't see anything then I'll go in and sit on a workshop. The way that everything's evolved every single time has been amazing. The story line keeps getting stronger and stronger, and the characters keep getting stronger and stronger, and then the musical arrangement from Tom Kitt is really inspiring."

Hysterically, running away from society to join the theater was a defiant, "punk rock" act, everyone agrees. In a way, Jimmy's archetypal journey to artistic self-actualization mirrors not only Green Day's journey, but that of many of the artists in The Berkeley Rep show as well. "Especially the kids that are in the show — people, I should say," Armstrong said. "They're in it they're artists, and they've given their whole life over to acting, singing, and dancing in its truest form. Their lifestyle and livelihood, it's sort of punk rock to me."

Even the waning of the angst-laden Bush era can't defuse the energy of the show. Global problems now stand in for the evil of Dick Cheney. Armstrong said. "It is hard, because I think back, and it was easier to point at what the problem was in 2003. But now I think it's coming from so many different angles and it's such a different crisis every week."

Mayer else was worried that *Idiot* could be viewed as yesterday's angst. "But surprisingly no. That was a concern that I had going into it. You watch one of these clips through and it puts you right back into it. We're so far from being out of the woods. It's perfectly good timing.

American Idiot opens Friday. Mayer says hiring your ear plugs. ●



Cast member Megan Weed warms up alongside her fellow performers.

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Opening week augurs well for the 41-year-old coffeehouse now relocated downtown

By Rachel Swan

Steve Baker looked buoyant the day before the grand opening of Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, at its new well lit swanky Addison Street venue. A fithe wiry man with a tattersall shirt and chunky glasses, Baker has served as the Freight s executive director for twelve years, but he s worked there on and off since 1983, when he was fresh out of law school. He helped turn the Freight & Salvage into a non profit entity at a time when its operations were teetering about keeping the doors open. Sixteen years later, he helped quarterback the move into a former garage and auto shop smack in the middle of downtown Berkeley's newly designated arts district. The move took ten years, $11 7 million and a lot of shrewd decision making. Yet it all goes as planned. It will not only help cement the Freight s place in Berkeley's cultural history, but give the coffeehouse a pivotal role in the city's gradually evolving downtown.

The auditorium in Freight & Salvage s new building seats twice as many people as the old performance hall (240 as opposed to 220), but it also has enough room for another 180 standing. It s a green building, with a living roof, a bamboo stage and floor, and recycled Levi s jeans in the walls for insulation. The new chairs from Swerve Design give the Freight a more contemporary edge. On slow nights they can be replaced by modular tables to make the place look more like a nightclub. The new Meyer Sound system makes performances audible throughout the lobby, and at the front entrance. Upstairs on the mezzanine level are five empty practice rooms, where performers will offer workshops and master classes of the sort you'd find in other performing-arts-oriented nonprofits.

It s been a tortuous journey, from conception to actualization. Baker describes it as a "design first, build later" type of process. Some time in the late 1990s, he got recall from Berkeley's economic development manager Michael Caplan, who at the time was helping conceptualize the arts district. In the early 1990s, Berkeley had funded a study to determine why people were coming downtown. "It was the arts," said Caplan, "including Berkeley Rep, the movie theaters, university-oriented cultural events, and food — there were over eighty restaurants in the area. Those were the main reasons people were coming here." City boosters decided that as "arts district" would be the perfect thing to anchor their revitalization efforts, and then designated Addison Avenue as its focus. That street is now home to Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Jazzschool, the Aurora Theatre, and the Addison Street Windows Gallery, in addition to the new Freight & Salvage. It will soon border a new 1,400-seat club leased to the owners of Slim s and Great American Music Hall (somewhere by the UC Theater), and a second iteration of UC Berkeley's Pacific Film Archive theater, which plans to relocate to Upper Center Street downtown. "You could break it down into seats," said Caplan. Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage is about 400, the Roda is about 600, Aurora has 200 seats, and the UC Theater will be 1,400. This will help restaurants in the area."

Caplan was in conversations with various arts organizations around the time he began courting Baker, but the Freight stood out as an especially desirable tenant. "Traditional music — bluegrass, **Cajun folk,** singer songwriters — it s something people associate a lot with Berkeley," said Caplan. "We really building on what we think are **Berkeley strengths.**"

Fortunately, the guy who owned the auto shop was also a big music buff and supportive of the Addison Street artification. People used to joke that he was an arts institution in his own right, since he always had quality jazz



Ran Ian Jack Elliott at the opening of the new Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse

Kevin Fo

music playing in the garage. Caplan said. He sold the property to the Freight in 2000. (The city granted the Freight a $527,000 loan for the acquisition.) Freight & Salvage also got the deal to both the auto shop and the building next door, which at that time housed the Capoeira Arts Café. Once he secured the deal, Baker enlisted the help of architects Donn Logan and Marcy Wong to completely redo the building s interior. This kept the original facade — it still says "Stadium Garage" in large block lettering — but changed everything else. "We chopped the building off at that line," said Logan, pointing just beyond the front wall to a place where the original two roofs intersect.

The tricky part was raising money. For years they continued renting space to the cafe and the Berkeley Rep, which used part of the dormant auto shop for costume storage. They spent the next nine years soliciting donors, some of whose names are inscribed in a placard at the entrance to the new performance hall. (The Freight s opening week program contains the list of donors in its entirety.) But a lot of that credit also goes to Baker, who figured out how to build the organization s capacity and transform it from a funky, music space into a cultural institution. Baker abandoned his law practice upon taking his post at the Freight, and has since devoted his life to the preservation of American folk music. It seemed apropos. After all, he keeps a guitar in his office, and as a lawyer he often represented artists and performers. "On Steve's part it took a true vision," said Caplan. "It was a change of pace, so the guilt was much riskier — or it seemed so at the time. We re so glad they were willing to take that risk."

Running a big venue does seem to put the Freight in a more perilous position, but Baker seemed sanguine on Wednesday — probably, because the venue expected to sell out all four of its opening week shows (it did six of Friday). Ticket costs remain in the $18 to $26 range, a price originally set to keep shows in the old coffeehouse from selling out. Overhead costs have increased, but Freight marketing director Lisa Marrying says that if sales remain high ticket prices will ultimately go down. Caplan think it s a win-win. The Freight has a built in crowd that now has reason to dine in the area, and the downtown location will make them accessible to a broader mix of people.

And he s probably right. The club s opening night fiddle summit played for a packed house, with at least thirty people standing in the aisles. Next door, Addison Street Windows Gallery featured a Freight-centric art exhibit with prints and oil paintings of legend- and 408-era musicians, plus posters of icons like Odetta, Ricky Skaggs, Ramblin Jack Elliott, Vienna Teng, Claudia de Flores, and the Tin Hat Trio. Parking was scarce for blocks at 9 p.m. on a Thursday, making the area seem less like downtown Berkeley and more like the SOMA district of San Francisco. For the 41-year-old coffeehouse, it seemed like an auspicious beginning. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

This Friday: Opening Art Reception
"Linescapes" by Pabla Manga
Friday, September 4th • 5 pm to 8 pm • FREE
2008 East Bay Express "Best Cafe/Coffeehouse" & "Best New Business"
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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS



Grab a covered dish and head out to the eat-in Amber McKee

Get Out to Eat In

Slow Food lobbies Congress with massive potlucks

Although it may have little meaning for anyone born after 1967, the term "human be-in" caused a huge scandal at its genesis. Historically, it refers to the afternoon of January 14, 1967, when 20,000 to 30,000 hippies gathered in Golden Gate Park to drop acid together — specifically, huge amounts of White Lightning LSD from underground manufacturer Owsley Stanley. Since that day, humans have found more productive ways of being in. We've laughed-in, bedded-in, worked in, caught in, cheek-in and now, thanks to organizers at Slow Food USA, we're eating in. Since September 2008, Slow Food has launched more than 250 community potlucks around the country to encourage people to get together and share home-cooked meals. The one that happened June 13 in Tilden Park included a huge roast pig. One hundred thirty people came to help eat it, each bringing their own side dish, judging from the photographs, it was one of the biggest summer feasts that Berkeley has seen in a while. Huge slabs of pink, oily meat; proper bags full of skewberries; brownies with walnuts and chocolate chips; shrimp pasta; leafy green vegetables; water crackers with lime; whole lemons; and crusty baguettes with olive oil.

On Labor Day, Slow Food will host a spate of Eat Ins throughout the country, with a stronger political charge than usual. The impetus? A full-throttle campaign to revise the Child Nutrition Act, which provides lunch to more than thirty million children each day. Congress will reauthorize the 1966 law this fall, and Slow Food proponents say that want dramatic changes — including an additional dollar (or more) invested per child per lunch. Right now, the schools recoup about $2.57 per lunch, and only $1 goes to ingredients, said spokesperson Anna Smith Clark. When compared to certain countries in Europe, she adds, the United States feeds its serfs. Moreover, Slow Food asks that schools expunge all junk food items from their cafeterias and vending machines. Their hope, said Clark, is to curb child obesity and teach healthy eating habits early on. "School lunches are how you learn about eating, and we're definitely not teaching children how to eat well," she explained. "They're getting calories in, but not in a good way."

Congresswoman Barbara Lee will serve as male speaker for Berkeley's **Labor Day Eat In** to be held at **Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park** (2151 Martin Luther King, Jr. Wy.). Other guests include Jacob Wright, program coordinator at the Center for Ecoliteracy; Jessica Prentice of the organization Three Stone Hearth; and Leon Davis of Hope Collaborative and the Ecology Center. Slow Food will set up table seating for 300, but asks that everyone bring blankets just in case. Admission is free; just bring a healthy dish and utensils. 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. SlowFoodUsa.org/index.php/campaign/time_for_lunch

— *Rachel Swarn*

ATTRACTIONS

Oakland Artisan Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculpture, miniature paintings, photography, dolls, soaps, pickling, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-6928. Fridays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Bret Harte Bigelow Plaza, at 14th and Broadway, Oakland.

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the redwoods at Tilden Regional Park. Info: 510-543-8979. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., 10 per ticket, $3 (under 3 ft. 6 in.). Tilden Regional Park, entrance off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-525-2233.

University of California Botanical Garden See plants you won't find anywhere else more than 12,000 varieties, in fact. Free docent tours Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Free admission on the first Thursday of every month. Daily. UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-643-2755. Botanic.Mcb.Berkeley.edu.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

1st Wednesday Street Parties With live bands, vendors from local businesses, and somethings from local restaurants. For info, visit Fruitvale1stWednesday.wordpress.com. First Wednesday of every month, 6–9 p.m. Continues through Sept. 2. Fire Boardhouse Restaurant, Main St., Pleasanton. 925-484-2199

9th Annual 9/11 Film Festival Presenting *Loose Change 9/11: An American Coup* with filmmaker Dylan Avery hosted by Alumni Fashion with speakers Jeremiah Sage, David Ray Griffin, Peter Phillips & Guests Representatives. Films include *2.7 Ripple Effect* by Mandi Shi, *Animal Enemies* by Amoud, *Kill the Messenger* by Fourth Generation Vermont & Wallet, *US government Pre Raw American Holocaust* by Italian filmmaker Mancuso, and Eric Hedin premiering *Architect Win* an investigation of the political attacks. Benefit for a benefit for Northern California 9/11 Truth Alliance. Sept. 9, 8:15, 9 p.m., $10. Grand Lake Theater, 3200 Grand Ave. (at Lake Park Ave.) Oakland. 510-452-3556. Firstamendmentfilms.com, current_events/date.htm.

California State Fair With rides, wild animals, a horse show, horse racing, live music and dancing, fine art, agriculture competitions, and special events. Through Sept. 7. $5–$10.99. Cal Expo Fair Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd. (Sacramento), Sacramento.

Millbrae Art & Wine Festival With a North Carolina feel, Millbrae transforms into a magnificent fair with live bands, a classic car show, cooking demos, organic and green product expos, a kids' zone, and an art & craft bazaar. Sept. 5–6, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Free. Broadway Ave., bet. Hillside and Meadow Glen (Millbrae) Avenue

KIDS

Anime Club Anime discussion group for teens. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 5:45–7 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave. Oakland. 510 597-5017. Oaklandlibrary.org

Art Classes for Children with Disabilities Ages 8–16 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and many other artistic entertainments in a group setting. Mornings five Fridays per class. Call to register. Saturdays, 10 a.m.–noon. $8. MAD Art Center, 551 23rd St. (Herman Luehrs-Kay Gallery) Manhattan. 510-610-0790. MADart.org

Children's Fairyland Restored Redwood Featuring acts I or II crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the carousel all the day, and more. Saturdays 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m.–5p. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org

Confucius's Kung Fu Classes Taught by the monks from the Shaolin Buddhist Temple and Education Foundation. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Saturdays, 10–11 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31 $10. Fruitvale Avenue Library, 3340 Fruitvale Ave. Oakland. 510-481-8450.







Labor Day 4 Day Sale

Sept 3 thru 6



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selected apparel at Ideas 4 Elements

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Hours: M-F 10:30-6:30 SAT 10-6 SUN 12-5

closed Labor Day

PICKS

9/11 Film Festival

We hate lower plaintiffs and penalties about 9/11 in the mainstream media these days, but the conspiracy theories haven't abated — and won't any time soon. For an interesting, against-the-grain perspective on the filling of the twin towers, the anthrax attacks (and investigation thereof), and 8-o-ways-in-labs, check out the **5th annual 9/11 Film Festival**. It **M** Sept. 9-10 at Oakland's **Grand Lake Theater** (Lakeside Grand Ave.). Hosted by Seattle Faultliner — what a host known for her KPFA public affairs program, "Guns and Butter — this year's event features the US premiere of *The New American Century* by Italian filmmaker Nanni Manzacca, Eric Nadler's film *The Anthrax War* will link bio-weapons to vaccine manufacturers. Other screenings include Mimi Orr's *Ripple Effect*, Bermas *Fabled Enemies*, *All the Messenger's* by French filmmakers Verbeud & Viallet, and the last installment of Dylan Avery's *Loose Change* series, with a special appearance by the director. Other speakers include Richard Gage, David Ray Griffin, Peter Phillips and Sibyal Beyodendanda and Jonathan McKinley. Events kick off at 6:45 p.m. Wed., Sept. 9, and 12 p.m. on Thurs. Sept. 10.

$10, proceeds benefit Northern California 9/11 Truth. Alliance. CommunityCurrency.org/Film-Festival2009 — *Rachel Swan*

Cal Football

The Golden Bears look off the 2009 season expecting to compete for a high-level postseason bowl game. Of course, the season was true for sneak, when the blue and Gold got wacked, 35-27 at the mains of the Terrapins. At the time, there was a lot of rationalization. Something about the California squad having to travel to the East Coast, having to start the game at noon, and general fear about playing teams with turfless seasons. This year the joke is on the visitors from the Atlantic Coast Conference. The game is at Memorial Stadium, the time is your guess, and the attendance is expected to be a sea of blue. You'd think that might have turtles, too. But the bettors think Cal's better. On Sept. 5 at **Memorial Stadium**, 200 Memorial Stadium, Berkeley. 510-924-8000. Calbears.com

— *Abby Sterman*

Lang Lang in Conversation with Sarah Cahill

Not many days can go by in one entire has cell need to **Lang Lang**, a 27-year-old Chinese pianist who gave his first public recital at age 5 and wound up playing for the Beijing Olympics 21 years later. His taste may come into question, but there's no doubting his virtuosity or technical mastery. More important by Lang Lang has an absolutely fascinating biography. Raised by parents whose own musical careers were thwarted by the Cultural Revolution, Lang Lang was burdened early on with being a torchbearer. He apparently gravitated to piano as a toddler and suffered derision from various teachers all the way up through his apprenticeship in Beijing, a Central Conservatory of Music. He's written it all down in the new book *Journey of a Thousand Miles* which he'll present Tuesday when he sits down with local pianist (and one-time *East Bay Express* contributor) Sarah Cahill. They'll grace the stage of UC Berkeley's **Zellerbach Auditorium** on September 8 at 7:30 p.m. $10 for students. (EAS.Berkeley.edu/events — *R.S.*



Lambert's Bod/Flickr (CC)

BUY FRESH

BUY LOCAL

Local Food View: World Class Wine & Olive Oil is Minutes Away

Did you know that you don't have to go far to find great local wines and olive oil? In fact you need look no further than Contra Costa County where award winning vintners, olive oil makers and other distinguished food artisans are flourishing right here in the East Bay. Contra Costa boasts some of the best soil and climate around, and you can taste it in the food produced there.



The Contra Costa Wine Grape & Olive Growers Association promotes the county's gourmet products through tastings events, and public education. Learn more at www.ccowines.com

Maybe it's time for a (very short) trip?

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE WITH FAMILY FARMERS • WWW.CAFF.ORG

GACC inc.

Children's Philippine Folk Dance by Leyola teaches traditional Philippine folk dances and exercises Tuesdays, Sundays, 1-3 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $150 a quarter. Call to register. Oakland Asian Cultural Center. 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0465. GACC.tc

Cafe My World a month-by workshop for kids, grades 2-12. Please preregister (ongoing) each workshop. Fridays, 4:15-6 p.m. $15/session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts. 1901 Pine St., downtown. 510-523-6851. Fbcenterarts.org

Oakland en Español Cultural and new events in Oakland, in Spanish. Includes history-making games and crafts from Spain high-speaking, outdoor festival for world and refreshments.

First Wednesday

of every Month

10 a.m.-noon, Lunch & Mobile. 5664 Bay St., Emeryville

510-547-4932

Dog Day Thursday Kids in grades 1-5 must be specially-trained Reading to-canine Assistance Dogs. Thursdays, 3 p.m. Continues through Sept. 3, free. Albany Library. 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. AC Library.org

Early Literacy Story Room Stories, and tips for young readers. Fees. Monday of every Month 2-3:00 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library. Martin Luther King Jr. Branch. 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5720. OaklandLibrary.org.

East Bay Teen Action Team Opportunity for teens to watch shorter films and discuss graphic novels. Second Wednesday of every Month 3-5 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library. Martin Luther King Jr. branch. 6833 International Blvd. Oakland. 510-615-5720. OaklandLibrary.org.

Fun With Math! The Girls Inc. program is for girls who want to gain community service Fridays they need to graduate from high school. Participants are trained in leadership and facilitation skills, and then put those skills into action by working with the younger girls at the Meyers Center. Teens develop their own lesson plans and elements such as sign language singing, French songs, name poems, and trust games. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. $146 inc. Meyers Center 11224 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. 510-521-1943, GirlsIncEastBay.org

Friday Luncheon and Crafts Fri. Sept. 4, 3 p.m., free. Oakland Main Library. 125 14th Street, Oakland

Kenpokai Self Defense for Girls Certified instructor Sara Cabral teaches self-defense classes just for girls ages 10-16, combining elements of martial yoga, karate, and kung fu and a noncompetitive non-aggressive workout. Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m. $35 drop-in rate, $108 for unlimited visits/month. 5339-647-2400, AlbanyKenpokaiKids.com. Albany Karate for Kids. 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9063

More Listings Online

Find hundreds of up-to-date Arts listings at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Lakeview Tennis Open Fall Intermediate Adult Group. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library. Lakeview Branch. 550 El Embarcadero. Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org

Lakeview Area Recreation and Park Center The Elderly offers aerobics, golf, adult sports teams, including Korean aerobics (adult and volleyball) activities for classes and children of all ages, and plenty of locations throughout Lakeview. Call 925-988-2800 for more info. Daily. LARPC.dst.ca.us/activities_Sutter1.htm. Lakeview Community Center. 4444 E. Ave. Livermore.

Photo Help Bring your math homework or questions to the library's tutors. Open to K-12. Saturdays, 2-4 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, Suite 211 (7200 Bancroft Ave. Oakland, 510-615-5720, OaklandLibrary.org.

Storytime Puppet Junction Sing-Along Music and Make of the National Puppet Theater present a fun and engaging puppet show Tuesdays, 9:15 p.m. $4.95 for kids. $6 for each additional sibling. free for adults and infants. Santa Rosa Cafe. 4230 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-891-7378, SaidleDeysCafe.com.

Teen Homework Center Free drop-in homework help for Oakland in grades 6-12. Thursdays, 3:30-6 p.m., Mondays, 3:45-5:30 p.m. free. Albany Library. 1249 Marin Ave. Albany. 510-526-3720. AC Library.org.

Undergraduate for Rent Beginning classes in Indian classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Jyoti Kala Mandir College of Indian Classical Arts. 1034 Halkerton St. Berkeley. 510-273-2462. VishnuYoga.org.

Paint-A-Mug for Grandparents' Day Mugs best at Hastest. Through Sept. 5. $7.95. Hatchet Chatterly's Museum. 2366 Talmage St. Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Hatchet.org.

Teen Advisory Board Outreach Workshop of every month. 3:30-4:30 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library. Lakeview Branch. 550 El Embarcadero. Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Teen Comic Jam For young fans of superhero adventures. Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library. Eastmont Library. Martin Luther King Jr. branch. 6833 International Blvd. Oakland. 510-615-5720. OaklandLibrary.org.

Teen Time Thursdays Music, guided games, games, and movies. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library. Eastmont Branch. 3565 Fairfield Ave. Oakland. 510-615-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Wild Animal Rescue Children's program. Oakland stories, music and magic tricks. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Berkeley Public Library Central Location. 2090 Kittredge St. (at Shattuck Ave.) Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Wildlife Rescue On Saturdays, bring a story and meet an animal. On Sundays, math

meets potentials and loosen social customs feeling. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m., Sundays, 1:45 p.m. Bear with you admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd. Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Youth Drop-In Sports Schedule Grades 6-12 and all under 18s welcome; children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Livermore. 373-5700.

LGBT

Shotluck Women's Support Group All Oakland and Berkeley-area women (including transgendered women) interested in discussing issues specific to bisexuality are welcome. Info: bifem@sonnets.berkeley.edu. Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-8100. PacificCenter.org.

Dress-Up Wednesdays A social gathering, where transgender girls, transgender boys and allies can socialize, enjoy brunch and a large selection of clothing for the woman in you. Dress up, make-up and free photos, and gal pinkies tips. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. $15-20 donation requested. JoanBrownAgent.com I Love It. 41879 Warm Springs Blvd. #7 Fremont. 510-656-4788. ILoveItOnline.com.

East Bay Trans Oakland Join the GLBT group for noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly locations. Saturdays, 9:10 a.m. free. EastBayTransBrunchers.org. Berkeley Shoreline 2001 University Ave. Berkeley. 510-981-6740

Refund 294 Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their 20's in the East Bay. Thursdays, 8:15 p.m., 510-981 Suggested donation. (510) 548-8080 Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-8100. PacificCenter.org.

HIV+ Gay Men's Support Group A supportive environment for gay men living a diagnosis of HIV. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. sessions. Community Center of Contra Costa County 3302 Willow Pass Rd. Concord. 925-687-3000. FriendsOfCC.org.

HIV Positive Therapy Group Advance sign-up required. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 510-845-4800 ext. 10 or 510-548-8100 ext. 240. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8100. Pacific Center.org.

Lesbians of Older Spirit Group Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. (510) 548-8100. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-8100. PacificCenter.org.

Lilith Weekly Practice Meeting E-mail joanne.abrahamson@kaiserhawaii.com for more info. Tuesdays, 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. 99-22-512 Pinnacle Kaiona Hall, 3579 Diseased St., Honolulu. Berkeley

LULU Youth Group Support group for LGBT youth. Readers, arts/crafts, writing/music. Wednesdays, youth leadership. Thursdays, teen support/peer mentors. Fridays: queer movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-8 p.m. Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6 p.m., Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Free. 510-548-8283 Pacific Center 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley 510-548-8283 PacificCenter.org.

Oakland and Formerly Oakland Gay/Bi Men's Support Group Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m. mantalkmagnolia@mantalkcenter.org. Pacific Center 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-8283 PacificCenter.org.

Men Massaging Men No previous experience necessary. If participating in this Adult massage gathering. Check website for dates. Every other Friday, 7:10 p.m., $30 with a $5 discount for bringing your own sheet and lotion. FriendshakeBoston.com. Hoverbutter Studio, 4809 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510) 495-4965.

Art of the Nude Beach Blanket Babylon presents a special edition of its long-running revue for GLBT theater lovers, with an audition by Club Lederoi at the Castro. Fri. Sept. 4, 9:30 p.m. $85-$88. Club Fugazi, 578 Green St., San Francisco. 415-421-4222, BeachBlanketBabylon.com.

Transgender Support Group An all-inclusive Afrocentric group for crossdressers, male sexuals and other people with gender identity issues. First Thursday of every month, 7 p.m., Free, (925) 602-6080

Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County 3024 Willow Pass Rd., Concord. 925-602-6080. RainbowCC.org.

Transgender Support Group Support group for transgender men and women seeking peer support. Fridays, 8-9:30 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-8100. PacificCenter.org.

Trip for Light Fantastic Registration is a welcome to learn and participate in fun days. East and West Coast outings, social, regional nightclub two-days, game Lindy and dances. First and Third Friday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m., 510-757-9619 social, birthday Heather 510-719-1343 thirdfriday@fantastic.org. Lake Merritt Tennis Center, 150 Bellevue Ave., Oakland 510-594-2178. LakeMerritTennisCenter.org.

Wicked Gorgeous Drag Show Roberta Tyrnes, Cassandra Cass, Rusty Hips, and Miss Piggy. Fridays, 5 p.m. Continues through Sept. 4. $5 While Supp Inn, 6991 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-995-3809, WhatsNewBlue.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

"80s of Fight" 80s movies and TV movies from 2 for $5 well drinks. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. free Pacific Lounge, 2236 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley PacificLounge.com.

Bonus Game Only Trivia game for cash and prizes. Tuesdays, 9 p.m. free Seabirds, 2271 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-647-1760 BerkeleySeabirds.com.

Brainstormers Trivia Night Mondays, 8:30 p.m. free Bonnet McCarthy's, 1363 Grand Ave. San Leandro. 510-357-9630. Many-GoodBeers.com.

Cinnabon de Soule Community jam and salon for drummers, singers, and basically who play samba. First and Third Sunday of every month, 2:30-8 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2586. LaPena.org.

Free Pool Mondays, 5 p.m.-midnight; Wednesdays, 8 p.m.-midnight; Fridays, 12 p.m.-midnight. Stewart 510-763-1700. FreePool.com.

Kensington Library Knitting Club The Crotchet spin yarns on a monthly basis. First Monday of every month, 7 a.m. Kensington Branch Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Kensington. 510-524-3043.

Knee-and Trivia Night Hosted by Jenna & Travis. Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. free Neonball Cafe, 5004 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344 NeonBallCafe.net.

Latin Games Book discounts & free pool for ladies & pint-nights! Thursdays, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. free Lucky 13, 1301 Jackson St., Hayward. 510-785-7100 FeverClub.com.

Laugh Club Medical research has proven: The laughter is good for you so take seven for a half-hour laugh session. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. $1 liability use fee for discussion $2 for nonresidents. 925-218-4500. San Ramon Senior Center, 3306 Norris Canyon Rd. San Ramon.

The Living Philosophers Group A privileged communion group. Meets 10 a.m.-1 p.m., helmet@naturalway.net. North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Rehearsals Mondays, 7:30 p.m. free. Imani Community Church, 3300 Mandela Pkwy. Oakland. 510-531-5411 ImaniOC.org.

Pub Trivia with edible and a much jackpot. Wednesdays, 9 p.m. free. Pleasant Lounge, 2295 Bolshaw Ave. Berkeley. PleasantLounge.com.

Saturday Tennis Football Shootin Saturdays, 5 a.m. free. Crippen's Sports Bar & Grill, 1337 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7500 CrippensBarandGrill.com.

Scrabble Club We club meets two to three hours a month and hosts a monthly tournament (we USA) and rates 925 for the games. Third and First Saturday of every month, 11 a.m. $1 Vets Memorial Games and Hobbies, 4920 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-547-4UN (4386). NSTourMentCenter.com.

Weekly Night $8 per person for romantic bowling games and shoe rental. Benefits scientists. Call ahead to reserve your lane. First Sunday of every month. Holiday Bowl, 2912 Telegraph Blvd. Berkeley. 510-538-0300. HolidayBowl.tv

Weekly Water Tasting & Bonnet Party Beers from boutique wineries, plus appetizers. For info, visit The PartyMachine.com. $25.

Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m., $30. Spin Ultra Lounge & Gourmet Pizza, 1241 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-933-1241.

Shiatsu Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. free. Cafe Trieste, 2966 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-5196.

Style with Wine A monthly fashion show with wine. Present, auction and more. First Thursday of every month, 5 p.m. 925-925-3662 thebellbarn@aol.com. The Bellbarn Boutique, 100 Railroad Ave., Danville. 925-362-0673. TheBell.com.

Walnut Creek Garden Club Cafe A privileged communion group. Every other Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. JoannMaxwell@earthlink.net. Philosophers' org. Cafe La Scala, 1656 N. Main St. Walnut Creek. 925-935-7779

Weekly Step-Aerobics Led by Dale Allen Sullivan. Free drop-in all ages, no experience necessary. Wednesdays, 4:30-5 p.m. Albany Library, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Adult Rugby For Fitness Taught by students from the Chuden Balances Temple and Education Foundation. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 5:45-7:45 p.m. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon. Continues through Dec. 31. $95 Black or beginner (non-practicing). Oakland Bonsai Cultural Center, 388 19th St., Oakland. 510-637-1455. OACC.org.

Aikido Shodan For info, visit Bayleaf-Westchester.org. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Mondays, 6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $40/mo for 2 classes per week; $70/mo for one class per week. Live Oak Center 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6860

Bobsled Hosting Taught by Randy Rain Hosting. Sundays, 8:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $9 drop-in (monthly). Oakland and Oakland Bonsai Cultural Center, 388 19th St., Oakland. 510-637-1455. OACC.org.

Shaolin Kung Fu Kung-style through Oakland info. Oaklandkung.org. First Friday of every month, 5:30 p.m., free. Friends, Tijuana Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Ocean Living Project: Sustainability Across South America, Part III Hot Wellness and other events. Ocean Living Project offers mission-responsible travel and sustainability programs. Wed., Sept. 9 7-8:30 p.m. free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley. 510-527-4440 REI.com.

High Heed 5K/10K Walk for Breast Cancer. Sundays 12 p.m. free. San Pablo Lytton Casino, 13255 San Pablo Ave. San Pablo. 510-215-7566. SanPabloLytton.com.

Ladies Night Special for teens Oakland for women info: 510-848-7373 ex. 322 Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., $10 at walk-in, $25 for a card. $5 off each purchase will benefit the American Heart Association. Teens Park Card Course. Grizzly Peak and Tunnel Rd. Berkeley 510-848-7373, TildenParkGolf.com.

Pro Ballard Run Team Weekly Run Run Leisurely 15 25-mile ride on Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley Hills. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. and starters. Café, 6900 Shattuck Ave. Oakland. 510-595-5344, NeonBallCafe.net.

Pool Tournament Bring water bottles & goggles. First Saturday of every month, 5:30 p.m. free. Ffree. 2459 Shasta St., San Francisco. 415-282-3175, Ffree.org.

Rec-It-Read Mondays, 10 p.m. $1.50 per game. Albany Bowl, 5680 San Pablo Ave. Albany. 510-526-8615, AlbanyBowl.us.

Rusty Shoelings Ski Club Weekly Meeting Recreational skiers, snowboarders, and other snow sports welcome. Year-round socials, include waterskiing, softball, tennis, golf, and more. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. RustyShoelings.com. The Greenery Restaurant, 1551 Mandeville Dr. Walnut Creek. 925-937-1700

San Francisco Frostrunners A 1.5 mile run starting at Stow Lake together with the rest of the EGRT community and Shaolin Saturdays, 9 a.m. free. 99 frostrunners, org. Center Gate Park, 50 Stow Lake Drive. San Francisco.

Shaolin Mouth Wushu and Qi Gong Therapy Students learn the elements of wushu such as kung forms that involve the hands, eyes, body and mind. Through Feb. 1, 2010. Shaolin Lue Han Temple, 2130 Berkeley Way, Berkeley.

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(510) 526 9588 www.AlbanyArtsGallery.com

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(510) 828 9038 www.GatheringTribes.com

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



"Vintage" by Morgan Ford

Paper View

As the Oakland Museum closes its curator juries a show in Berkeley

Thirty-six artworks by eighteen artists were selected from more than a hundred entries by the Oakland Museum of California's René de Guzman and Berkeley Art Center's former Acting Director Kate Eilertsen for this annual **juried members' show** (to which admission is, of course, free). The artists include Henrique Bagulho, Leigh Barbier, Mariet Braakman, Iris Chatabi Berggren, Emily Clawson, Morgan Ford, Julie V Garner, John Hundt, Lisa Martin, Liz Maxwell, Anthony Lazarko, Mamiko Miki, Camille Newhagen, Henry Navarre, Sarah Newton, Jonathon Solo, Hyewon Yoon, and Alex Zecca, and the work covers a wide range of subjects, styles, and approaches to the versatile medium of paper.

There is no common theme to the work, of course, but among the noteworthy pieces are Henrique Bagulho a two "I on the World" digital photos, presenting multiple versions of himself engaged in various scenarios — awaiting execution by a pantomime firing squad at some prison, at "number and executing a bust the grand staircase of San Francisco's City Hall. Leigh Barbier's mixed media paintings "The New Arrivals" and "The Valley of Decision and Trade," depicting fantastic or furry tale mountain landscapes filled with small groups of enigmatic chin figures. Iris Chambi Berggren a graphite drawings of birds (gyrfalcon, hummingbird, and Pudergrau) on partially worn sheets of paper that suggest patterns on nests. Morgan Ford's color photograph "Vintage," with its cropped view of 1962 as judging by woman a print dress and the sky blue Mercury Comet behind her. Julie V Garner's large-format color photos of industrial architecture ("Sugar Factory," "Alameda Grey") cut into strips and woven together. John Hundt's surreal collaged engraving portraits of a cephalopod scientist and a paleontologist. Anthony Lazerko a Californian rustic wooden tub a truck stop and a McDonald's both seen from far off, as if from a speeding auto. Lisa Martin's conceptual ink drawings based on maps of the United States in the mid 19th century. Liz Maxwell's white-on-blue drawings, "Thistle" and "Wings for Another Lea," then linear and transparent floral motifs suggesting psychic states. Henry Navarre's white-on-white cut-paper "Self" collages, probably based on photographs. Sarah Newton's quantity photo etchings of San Francisco street scenes: "Cesar Chavez and Mission" and "Missouri St., Parking Lot." Jonathon Solo's gender bending portra I drawing with collage "Hunted" and "She Loved Me" and Hyewon Yoon's ink drawing "Abandoned Structures 1" depicting a wh it plain filled with red structures of rock and shell. ***Juried@BAC: Works on Paper*** runs through September 20 at **Berkeley Art Center** (1275 Walnut St. Berkeley). BerkeleyArtCenter org or 510-644 6893.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

ART GALLERIES

ABC0 Warehouse Space. Challenge of Warehouse Community art exhibit commentary on Oakland Homicides. Through Dec. 28. 1451 Filbert St., Emeryville ABC0ArtSpace com.

Bateaux. Cafe. Landscapes by Pablo Mateos Opening reception Fri. Sept. 4. 5-8 p.m Sept. 4 30. 414 14th St. Oakland.

Bateaux. Gallery. Fall Show A Short History of Annie Art Exhibition features more than 400 decks burned from artists, skaters and companies from across the country. Through Sept. 13. 1981 Dwight Way. (Black Lesbian Regional Center for the Arts) Walnut Creek. 925-395-1477 BatteauGallery org.

Berkeley Art Museum. Weaving Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet Exhibition explores relationship between human communities and the natural world. Featuring work by Mark Dion, Ann Hamilton, Maia Mongkonpo-Ovalle, Mamoru Nishikaj EAME, Rigo 23, Rada Rabbitte, Diana Thater, and Xu Bing. Through Sept. 22 2625 Durant Ave. (UC Berkeley campus). Berkeley 510-642-0808. BAMPFA. berkeley.edu

Berkeley Public Library. Octavia Butler Garden. It Life In Fence Exhibit Butler's work by Oakland photographer and life friend Nancy Burkstaller. Through Sept. 30. 2090 Kittredge St. (at Shattuck Ave.), Berkeley 510-981-6100 BerkeleyPublicLibrary org.

Blumkopen. Wrapped Package: the Hills Through 9/19. **Student Art from** Fri. Sept. 4 7:00 p.m., Sept 5-6 12-6 p.m. 8840 San Pablo Ave. Emeryville, 510-547 8800 BlumkopenGallery.com

Capsule. Bell's Diana Berkson Gallery. First Friday Suite The Comedy Bell Gallery's First Friday Series features work by Diana Gordon, caricatures by Manuel Ibatis, Edwidge Mabre and Emma Reynolds. Every Friday of every month. 8 p.m. 1910 Pine St., Oakland. 510-451-6461

CENTU! Gallery. Le Cafe del Tiempo Works in series by Alejandra Chabrand Artist reception 1pm. Sept 15 12-1 p.m. Through Oct. 16. 315 11th St. Oakland. 510 271 1387

Colorful Gallery. The Tattoo Show Tattoo & cartoon-inspired art by Annie Lowe, Angelique Houtkamp, Anna Lopez, Anna Tatum, Anna Overa, Anabella Proffer, Barry Fowle, Sue Jeller, Calamity Cole, Calaveras Lagunas, Chris Bowlin, Chris Kenyon, Christine Benjamin, Eric Dobbins and many other artists. Through Sept. 4 (2008) San Pablo Ave. El Cerrito, 510-364 7295 EthnicGallery com.

Float Gallery. The Genius. Most Persuade the Rock Cosmologic drawings & monologues by Cheryl Pinnock, plus kinetic art by Sushu Tevar. Through Sept. 15. 1001 Calcot Pl #115. Oakland. 510-535-1722 TheFloatGallery.com.

Johnsonia Projects. Bold Visions by Jennie Ottinger Artwalk reception 6-9 Sept 4 5-9 p.m. Through Sept. 18. 2300 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-444-8140 JohnsoniaProjects com

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Gallery. Johnsonia Gallery. Show Me: My Perspective on a New Universe Combining East Asian brush painting with Western expressionism. Through Sept. 19. 2956 San Pablo Ave. (2nd floor), Berkeley. 510-649-2499 JFKU edu, gallery

Joyce Gordon. Gallery Gordon. Sistra Painting exhibition featuring work by Gordon, Cathy Joshua Bildner, Jay Merrywether, Alison Kalb, Annie Sisson, Chris Pearsall, and Eric Ward. Opening reception Fri. Sept. 4. 5-9 p.m. Sept. 4 thr. 30. **Street Musicians. Photographs by Gabe Amin** Opening reception Fri. Sept. 4. 5-9 p.m. Sept. 4 thr. 30. **Debbie Mazar** Painting exhibition featuring work by Gordon, Cathy Joshua Bildner, Jay Merrywether, Alison Sisson, Kevin Sisson, Chris Pearsall, and Eric Ward. Opening reception Fri. Sept. 4. 5-9 p.m. Sept. 4 thr. 30. 2904 4th St. Oakland. 510-649-8008, JoyceGordonGallery com

Kala Art Institute. Hinoteuny Projects Part II. New work by Nichole Beauy Gutshot. Invited. An Alchemic and Bombs. Soundsee Through Oct. 3. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977 Kala org.

Lucky 13 to Pinball Art Gallery. Decomposition Festival. Found Object Reconstruction by Tim Seghezi Through Sept. 2. 713-6 Santa Clara St. Alameda 510-291-9793. lt ugu com

Lulu's Taproom & Lounge. Diana Dog Arts and Craft Collective Arts & crafts bazaar

First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the *Express* for more information on East Bay art showings.

Spend an evening supporting local arts and win prizes from the *East Bay Express*!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday, September 4th.

ALAMEDA

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Frank Bette Center
1601 Paru St.

ALBANY

A Different Day Gallery
1233 Solano Ave

Albany Arts Gallery
1251 Solano Ave.

Dathering Tribes
1412 Solano Ave.

BERKELEY

Artbeat Salon & Gallery
1888 Solano Ave

Berkeley Potters Guild
731 Jones St

Ideas 4 Elements & Shoes On Solano
1771 & 1745 Solano Ave.

Kala Gallery
2990 San Pablo Ave

Sue Johnson Lamps
1745 Solano Ave.

EL CERRITO

Eclectus Gallery
10082 San Pablo Ave

Fingado Art Gallery
7085 Stockton Ave.

EMERYVILLE

Parisetas Cellars
1410 62nd St., Suite B

KENSINGTON

Circle Salon
464 Colusa Ave

Faces Skin Studio
371 Colusa Ave

Hiersoux Gallery
437 Colusa Ave

Kensington Cobbler
328 Colusa Ave.

Krull Realty
396 Colusa Ave

Nan Phelps Photography
398 Colusa Ave

Post Meridian Restaurant
568 Oak View Ave.

RabbiEARS
337 Colusa Ave

OAKLAND

Awaken Café
414 14th St

21 Grand
416 25th St.

Blank Space
6608 San Pablo Ave

Buzz Gallery
2318 Telegraph Ave

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
25 Grand Ave.

The Compound Gallery
6604 San Pablo Ave

Creative Growth
355 24th St.

The Den at the Fox Theater
1807 Telegraph Ave

Desa Arts
4810 Telegraph Ave

Five Ten Studio
831 Broadway Ave

Forthrite Gallery
5857 San Pablo Ave

FLOAT Gallery
1091 Calcot Place #116

Front Gallery
35 Grand Ave.

Great Wall of Oakland
Back wall on Grand Ave
between Broadway and Valley

Hatch
492 23rd St.

Johanssen Projects
2300 Telegraph Ave.

Linville
3080 Piedmont Ave

Luka e Teproam & Lounge
2221 Broadway

LoBel Gallery
1800 Campbell St.

Maniac Gallery
357 17th St #204

Mercury 20
75 Grand Ave

Mignonne
1090 Jefferson St.

The Moon
447 25th St

Nemesuch Space
2865 Broadway 2nd Floor

Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak St.

Dakopolis
447 25th St

ProArts
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Red Door Gallery
416 26th St.

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave

Rosz Café
1940 Park Blvd

Rowan Morrison
330 40th St

Swarm Studios & Gallery
560 2nd St.

The Swee(t)Art Drawing Gallery
6602 San Pablo Ave.

Temescal Arts Center
511 40th St

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
5940 College Ave

RAW Gallery
5101 William St.

Well
4233 Telegraph Ave.

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to promotions@eastbayexpress.com to be included in the October directory



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PICKS

Cakeland

Kurt Schwitters' famous environmental artwork, "The Cathedral of Erotic Misery," it is not, but Scott Hove's Cakeland is a descendant of that pioneering Dadaist work, destroyed during the bombing of Dresden in World War II. Both installations entail obsessive labor and rich structure and satire. Hove's cakes are made of salvaged cardboard boxes painted pastry-box or Pepto-Bismol pink and ornamented with rosettes and swags of faux icing (joint compound or acrylic gel). They are stacked like igloo ice blocks into labyrinthine walls that surround an ornate chapel or chamber (which was separately exhibited at the San Jose Museum recently). Visitors, once beyond the fanged-cake, demon entries lurking amid the rococo pastry-gun frippery and plastic fruit, can meditate on final rewards and just desserts. Reception September 4, 6-10 p.m. (let there be cake). Cakeland runs through September 25 at Cakeland Gallery (…Ave., Oakland). …



MUSEUMS





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In a program set to music by Beethoven, Ives, and Schumann, the extraordinary Mark Morris Dance Group fresh off its summer appearances at the 2009 Tanglewood and Lincoln Center Mostly Mozart Festivals — with two West Coast premieres. Performing to live music by the MMDG Music Ensemble, *Visitation* and *Empire Garden* echo Mark Morris's subtle & signature blend of sound and movement. Morris's Limphani (*San Francisco Chronicle*) *V* roughout the program

Program *Visitation*, set to Beethoven's Sonata for Piano and Cello No. 4; *Empire Garden*, set to Ives' Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano; *V*, set to Schumann's Quintet in E-flat Major

Sightlines Sa Sep 19 7 pm Zellerbach Hall Pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley music critic Joe H. Sunshine

Visitation and *Empire Garden* are commissioned, in part, by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts' Out Front and Tanglewood Music Center's 75th Anniversary Commissioning Project.

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THEATER

AWAKEN, SING, SIMMER

Aurora Theatre Company adds richness to a Depression-era drama

By Rachel Swan



Dan Sa Alent

Ellen Ratner is dazzling as Bessie Berger in *Awake and Sing!*

Brilliance is overrated for the Bergers. The same might be said for any hard-scrabble Jewish family in Depression-era New York, but this one stands out for its particular concentration of mercurial personalities and unconstrained passions. The Bergers, who star in Aurora Theatre's production of Clifford Odets' 1935 drama *Awake and Sing!*, do everything with gusto, whether it's eating, sleeping, fighting, gambling, coveting, volleying insults, shuffling cards or falling in love. They make soap operas speak in aphorisms and cross-examine each other all the livelong night. Thus, they're the perfect people to set in a pressure-cooker and watch simmer.

Aurora chose an apt time to mount this decades-old play, given all the parallels between the Great Depression and our current recession. Of course, *Awake and Sing!* is locked in a particular time and place — the characters play pinochle, reference actor Al Jolson, sit in armchairs, and read the daily newspaper. Yet all the talk of rationing and budgeting will resonate with modern audiences, as will the pebbled spats that pit Marxist grandfather Jacob against rich Uncle Morris. And there's nothing like an old fashioned morality tale to put the current crisis in perspective. All the same, this play is less a historical allegory than a group character study. It shows what happens when family members manipulate each other to the point that their strongest foundation starts to crumble.

Several themes and storylines fold together, but the main one, about a brusque, calculating matriarch who exploits her children, lends Rosilf some terrific character roles. At the helm is Bessie Berger (Ellen Ratner), a regal, middle-aged woman with tight curls and a sharp Brooklyn accent. She's the type of mother who intercepts phone calls and sabotages relationships that don't promise financial returns, but would marry her children off in a second if it seemed practical. Her husband Myron (Charles Dean) is a spineless layabout. Her father Jacob (Ray Reinhardt) the play's resident moral compass, is constantly quoting socialist philosophers while playing opera at full blast. Her daughter Hennie (Rebecca Wisocky) is a cranky, irresponsible bread with a bad habit of choosing her own destiny. Her son Ralph (Patrick Russell) is a self-pitying do-gooder with imprudent romantic interests. Hennie's lover Moe Axelrod (Rod Gnapp) is a racketeer who gets under everyone's skin. If only Bessie could make them all behave.

Bessie is the fulcrum around which spins all the play's action. She deems Ralph the money for proper dental care or new skates, so he grows up without any sense of familial loyalty. She finds out Hennie is pregnant out of wedlock and forces her into a marriage of convenience with the family's schlubby neighbor Sam Feinschreiber (Anthony Nemirovsky). Like any good stage mother, Bessie knows how to fix with a straight face, sweep things under the rug and get other people to do her bidding. But she fails spectacularly under scrutiny. If I took great concentration on Ratner's part to make Bessie's believable, even endearing character. She belittles people but also covers for her children when they make a mess. She's cruel yet put upon.

Ratner is dazzling, and she's in good company. Gnapp plays Moe Axelrod as a wisecracking hustler who's so encumbered by his peg leg that it seems like a whole side of his body is disfigured. He's a bit slimy for no-nonsense Hennie, but manages to seduce her anyway — probably thanks to slim pickins in the Berger orbit. Victor Talmadge is also convincing as the self-made uncle who subjects other characters to his disembodied, lanternose. He's as cursory as the others, dispensing such pearls as "Common sense is thicker than love" (which befits more than one relationship in this family). When Morty finds out that Axelrod has three wooden legs stowed away for safekeeping, he deduces that if Uncle Sam would start giving out legs, "maybe we could balance the budget."

The actors benefit hugely from Odets' script, which is a lot smarter and funnier than the phrase "Depression-era family drama" would lead you to believe. But it's surely quite difficult to inhabit one of these roles. Director Jay Carlin has a penchant for intricate blocking, and often has two planes of action happening simultaneously onstage. For instance, she sets up a family dinner scene in the background while Ralph comes to the fore to act out a private phone conversation with his girlfriend. (The phone conversation is hard to do even without the added clamor of dinner because Ralph has to convey what's happening on the other end.) It's a cool trick that makes the whole play seem more layered and complex, even though it requires everyone to be fully "on" at all times.

In fact *Awake and Sing!* does have several layers to it, stern- wise and theme-wise. The dialog is as sharp and peppery...and the characters constantly help one another and leave it up to the audience to sort fact from fiction. Moreover the line between moral ethical behavior and evil subterfuge is perilously thin. For a play that's ostensibly about poverty and desperation, it's actually quite rich. ●

Show Details

Awake and Sing! runs through Sept. 27 at Berkeley's Aurora Theatre (2081 Addison St.) $17-$45 AuroraTheatre.org

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Comedy Night hosted by Tony Sparks. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Free. [illegible] Cafe, 1112 [illegible] St., San Leandro. 415-891-2603. [illegible]

Comedy Off Broadway With a rotating cast of comedians featured on HBO, Comedy Central's Late Night Shows. For info visit ComedyOffBroadwayOakland. [illegible] Fridays, 9 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. 481 Washington Inn, 495 10th St., Oakland. 510-452-1776.

Comedy Blast hosted by [illegible] the Rock [illegible] with rotating acts. Mondays, 8 p.m. $10. Rock[illegible] Room, 400 [illegible] [illegible] 415-981-6344 [illegible]Room.com.

Magic & More! w/ Big Al Catraz & Friends. [illegible] you be laughing [illegible] performance of magic and present guests. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $20. Off-Market Theater Stage 250, 1985 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-644-0778.

Comedy Night Mix w/ a rotating lineup of SF Comedy College alumni. Tuesdays, 9-11 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Open Mic Comedy presented by SF Standup. Tuesdays, 8-9 p.m. [illegible] Annie's Social Club, 917 Folsom St., San Francisco. 415-974-1585. AnniesSocialClub.com.

Standup Grad Showcase w/ rotating acts. Fridays, 8 p.m. $12-$15. http://www.sfcomedycollege.com/. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

SF Comedy Showcase Sundays, 8 p.m. $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco. 415-397-4337. SFPunchlineComedyClub.com.

Happy Hour Show rotating acts. Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Temescal Improv Comedy A monthly showcase of improvised [illegible]. First Saturday of every month, 8 p.m., $4-$8. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St. (off Telegraph Ave.), Oakland. 510-923-1074. TemescalArtsCenter.org.

Thursday Night Improv w/ rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m. $5. www.sfcomedycollege.com/. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Tommy Davidson Thu., Sept. 3, 7 p.m., Fri., Sept. 4, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., Sat., Sept. 5, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Sun., Sept. 6, 7 p.m. $20-$25. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

> **More listings Online**
> Get info about dozens more theatrical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Textalites Without Regrets A [illegible] game show-style MC [illegible] and poetry slam hosted by Jamie [illegible] and Geoff Trenchard. First Thursday of every month, 8:30 p.m. $5-$10. Oakland [illegible] Warehouse, 880 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

DANCE- PERFORMANCE

Live Salsa Music Beginning and intermediate dance lessons, plus a live musical performance by a different act each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $10. [illegible] Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159. ShattuckDownLow.com.

Bones Level 4 Health Project Dance Benefit With [illegible] Peruvian dance by Ascension Cultural Kanaro, Balinese dance by [illegible], Afro-Peruvian dance and drumming by De Rompe y Raja, and [illegible] Azteca and poetry by Great [illegible] with Amy Lam. [illegible] Sept. 3, 8 p.m. $8-$12. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

LIVE VARIETY

Live Lingerie Show w/ prizes. Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m. Free. Warehouse Bar, 402 Webster St., Oakland. 510-451-5151. TheWarehouseBar.net.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

American Idiot Rock opera by Green Day, wound by Michael Mayer and choreographed by Steven Hoggett. Book and lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong, based on the band's multi-platinum album. Sept. 4-Oct. 11. Berkeley Repertory Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2944.

Art By Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton, directed by [illegible] Oliver. Starting Sept. 3. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 27. Town Hall Theatre, 3534 School St., Lafayette. 925-283-1557.

Mason and Nagi by Clifford Odets, directed by Jay Carlo. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m., Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 14. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

Center REPertory Company All Shook Up: [illegible] based on the book by Joe DiPietro. Inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley. Directed and choreographed by Robert Barry Fleming, with musical direction by Dolores Duran-Cefalu. Starting Sept. 3. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays, 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 10. $34-$48. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-1469. DLRCA.org. 925-295-1400. [illegible]CA.org.

The Farm Hip-hop version of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, adapted and directed by John Tracy and produced by Shotgun Players. Saturdays, Sundays, 4 p.m. Continues through Sept. 13. $20. John Hinkel Park, 41 Somerset Ave. (between San Diego Rd. and Somerset Pl.), Berkeley. 510-981-5050. www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/parks/parkpages/JohnHinkel.html.

Happy Days Jonathan Moscone directs this irreverent comedy by Samuel Beckett. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Sept. 8. $40-$58. Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, 100 Gateway Blvd. (off Hwy. 24 east of Caldecott Tunnel), Orinda. 510-548-9666. CalShakes.org.

Lost Directed by Jessica Holt. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sun., Sept. 13, 2:30 p.m., Sun., Sept. 20, 2:30 p.m. Continues through Sept. 20. $15. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

Machiavelli's The Prince Central Works Method play written and directed by Gary Graves. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 5 p.m. Sat., Sept. 12, 5 p.m. Continues through Sept. 19. $14-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

PICKS

The Farm

Shotgun Players set out to do the impossible by staging a hip-hop version of George Orwell's 1945 novel *Animal Farm*. After all the source material — which satirizes Joseph Stalin's regime in the Soviet Union — doesn't exactly lend itself to hip-hop flavor. Yet by restyling the characters and taking liberties with Orwell's language, director Jon Tracy managed to contemporize it while keeping the basic ideas intact. His anthropomorphic animals look like the type of young, svelte revolutionaries you'd see at a current antiwar protest. The dictator-pig Napoleon (Chad Deverman) wears a set of oversize DJ earphones while his lackey Squealer (Ruben Grijalva Rivera), runs around yelling into a megaphone. Old Major (Daniel Bruno), the Middle White boar credited with devising the animal rebellion, sits atop the stage banging on a drum set with a pair of mallets. This abbreviated version of Orwell's novel, called *The Farm*, is a musical of sorts, albeit a high-concept one. The characters use choreographed dance numbers to help move the plot forward, and most of their dances flow right into the action, rather than interrupting it. Not to mention that by incorporating drums and beatboxing, Shotgun manages to isolate a certain quality of Orwell's novel that might otherwise be lost: the percussive-ness of the prose. Stalinism may be frozen in time, but apparently *Animal Farm* lives on. Through Sept. 13 at Berkeley's **John Hinkel Park** (Southampton Ave. at Arlington Ave.), 4 p.m. Sliding scale donation. ShotgunPlayers.org. — *Rachel Swan*

Happy Days

The [illegible] premise of Samuel Beckett's play *Happy Days* accounts for much of its power: An older-aged woman, Winnie, is buried waist deep in a pile of dirt and rubble in a world of perpetual daylight — an alarm bell tells her when to wake and sleep. It's not clear exactly how she got there. Nor do we know why her husband, who lives in a cave behind the pile, has never come to her rescue. In fact, very little gets explained in this abstract but thoroughly wonderful play by California Shakespeare Theater, directed by Jonathan Moscone. Originally an understudy for screen star Marsha Mason, UC Santa Cruz theater professor Patty Gallagher had two weeks to memorize ninety minutes of tortuous, elliptical monologue, and figure out how to use her face as a singular register of expression. Despite the odds, her Winnie is funny, cheeky, and poignant, capable of unguarded insouciance and tragicomic desperation, while Dan Hiatt, in the role of her slovenly husband Willie, makes the most out of his grunts, groans, and monosyllabic responses. Imaginative set pieces and exacting stage directions contribute to the play's success. Through Sept. 8 at **Bruns Amphitheatre** (100 Gateway Blvd., Orinda). 548-9666. CalShakes.org. — *R.S.*

Machiavelli's The Prince

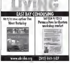
[illegible] rules things in Gary Graves' latest Central Works play, *Machiavelli's The Prince*, which imagines a meeting between Niccolò Machiavelli and Lorenzo de Medici II. Two incredible actors — the rather diminutive, bespectacled Richard Frederick and taller, more evil-looking Michael Navarra — play two characters engaged in a complex and delicate contest for power. Machiavelli (Frederick) tries to curry favor with Lorenzo (Navarra) by presenting a "handbook for tyrants" (i.e., an instructional manual on how to inspire fear in subjects, defeat enemies, and lie selectively). Lorenzo then has to choose between moral integrity and political ambition. Rather than create stark contrasts of good and evil, Graves sets his characters in a penumbra cooler and lets them battle it out — often, they use objects in the room (a pitcher of water, a cross, a Rubens study of Leonardo da Vinci's painting "The Battle of Anghiari") to transmit emotions. The play is taut and unsettling, and Graves' writing mixes history with fiction in an inventive way. Through Sept. 19 at **Berkeley City Club** (2315 Durant Ave.). 814-8205. CentralWorks.org. — *R.S.*



Too Big to Fail

Now in [illegible] years [illegible] and well entrenched as the Bay Area's leading producer of live agit-prop plays, the San Francisco Mime Troupe is tackling ever-more-complex issues. Whereas the past he poked fun at [illegible] "family-values" zealots and Iraq war profiteers, head writer Michael Gene Sullivan is now appropriating the language of stock brokers and economists. His new play, ***Too Big to Fail***, makes a parable of the global economic crisis. Set in a remote African village, it's the story of an ambitious but good-hearted man who falls prey to a lender. After his beloved goat gets repossessed, he sets off to fight the Wall Street demons who are trying to corrupt his village. Scored by Pat Moran (of Lord Loves a Working Man fame), *Too Big to Fail* tells the story of the current recession in the form of African folk tale. Once the villagers acquire "the magic of credit," they start buying cell phones with Beyoncé ringtones, Nintendo Wii, and mortgages on new huts, naïvely thinking they've benefited from the bank's largesse. From an audience vantage point it's easy to laugh and watch the situation unravel. It's less easy to forget that so many of us made the same mistakes. At **Bay Area parks** through Sept. 27. Free. SFMT.org. — *R.S.*









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LECTURES & LIT

Power Tool

In Kemble Scott's new novel, sex with a certain guy can cure everything.

He's hot. He's at home in San Francisco's steamiest sexual landscapes. In some ways, Bill Sellers has it made. But the weird bug with which he became infected while working in faraway Armenia turns out to be a man made supervirus that is capable, or so we're told, of curing every illness in the world. The catch — or is it? — is that for healing to happen, the virus must be transferred via sex. Bill is the only carrier.

So, soon enough, everyone wants a piece of him.


Kemble Scott

Kemble Scott considers his new novel *The Saviour* — whose title alludes to the Biblical Parable of the Sower because, Bill broadcasts seed — *Sex and the City* crossed with *The Da Vinci Code*. Politics, religion, science and the passions of a plugged-in, paranoid society merge in a fantasy set not in the future but in an alternative but recognizable version of the present day.

Once word spreads about Bill's remarkable ability — he becomes the most wanted man on the planet," explains Scott, an Emmy Award–winning former TV newswriter and producer whose 2007 debut novel *Sabu* was a Lambda Literary Award finalist. And suddenly, "the idea of sex as something 'good' turns out to be very threatening to many powerful people and institutions."

He chose to set part of the story in Armenia because "Armenia is the ultimate story of misplaced values" — where in 1915, "the Turks decided their 'values' were more important than the lives of millions," in seeking "to bring attention to a holocaust scene have tried to erase from the history books." Scott also wanted to remind readers that "different types of genocides are actually happening today."

In this imagined world as in our real one, fierce ideological battles rage over the very idea of human beings being poised to determine on a massive scale, who lives and who dies.

"What world's thriller be without the hero being chased around the world by henchmen working for the Vatican? In today's genre fiction, Korea has become what SPECTRE was to James Bond," Scott jokes. "So I poke some fun at that. But the scene everyone seems to be talking about is one where an unnamed Republican, right wing, Texas drawl–speaker president of the United States speaks the love that dare not speak Dick Cheney's name. Is the character supposed to be George W.?" After conferring with an imaginary lawyer Scott ventures, "Uh, no comment."

If this alternative present is unmistakably familiar — with a swine-flu outbreak mentioned in the novel's first chapter, and a reference elsewhere to Susan Boyle — that's because *The Saviour* is published mere months after Scott's own.

"Digital publishing is fast. You can reach the ann billion people connected to the Internet in an instant," marvels the veteran newsman, who will be at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland) on September 5.

And although what happens in this novel is literally a matter of life and death, "I don't want to mislead people into thinking it is a sermon," Scott explains. "In the end, I hope it leaves readers thinking about so-called American 'values.'" Maybe that's enough to make them laugh and cry. 7 p.m., free. GreatGood Place.indiebound.com

—Annch Rufus

LECTURES

"ARTIFACTS" The absurdly limited books for millennials taken place after the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Fairs. Post Sunday at every month. 3 p.m., $5–$7 (benefit for the Bay Theater, Pleasant Point Naval Air Station (Alameda Point) (2700 Saratoga St.) Alameda. 510-749-3120. AntiquesMarketBay.com.

Sandra Mahkle "Pleasant Love" Screening of the documentary *Bay of Madness*, plus a potluck dinner. Wed., Sept. 2, 6 p.m., $5 Humanist Fellowship Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-452-5318.

Long Long: Elizabeth and His Amazing Life with Sarah Books live. Sept. 1, 7:30 p.m. $10–$15. Cubberley Hall, UC Books by Lechau, from the Musical Offering, 2430 Bancroft Ave.) Berkeley. 510-642-0808. CalPerformances.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Allison Cupelo Discussing her book *The Philosophical Baby: What Children's Minds Tell Us About Truth, Love, and the Meaning of Life*. Tue., Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8272. MrsDalloways.com.

Bay Area Poets Pleasant Open Amusing Poetry Saturday, every month, 3:5 p.m., free. Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1326 Arlington Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-8330.

Bilingual Storytimes for Children Books days, 11:30 a.m. free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8665. LibraryHayward.org.

California at Wa. Poet Digital storytelling station allows people to record personal testimonials. Daily, free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8665. LibraryHayward.org.

Downton Sparks and Jonathon Keats Discussing their work. Tue., Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m. free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2987.

Fluid Thursdays A monthly open mic with Bukhard readers, and live in Bukhard quest. Third Thursday of every month, 7–9 p.m., free. Alliance Library, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. 510-526-3720. ACADemy.org.

Frederick Dawson Discussing his book *Your Name on Lontra Genres, from East Arriola at Las Ares, Hernandez*. Thu., Sept. 3, 5:30–7 p.m. free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-0688. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Jean Allen Cassedy and Violet Bokobby Presenting spoken word poetry, music, and bluegrass stories. Sun., Sept. 6, 11 p.m., $15–$17. Art House Studio & Cultural Center, 2805 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Kemble Scott Reading and gaming session of his book *The Sower*. Thu., Sept. 3, 7 p.m. free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

Children's Library Bookmarking Second Saturday of every month, 11:15 a.m., free. Martinez Library, 740 Court St., Martinez, 925-646-2949. www.contracostalib.org/locations/martinez-branch-library.htm.

Mobile East Bomber Group Call Joan Herbert at 510-893-2542 for more info. Saturdays, 3–5 p.m. free. Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park Ave., Oakland.

M.A. Ryan Discussing her book *Metamorphic: How to Survive Change You Didn't Ask For*. Wed., Sept. 9, 7 p.m. free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

New books book Downloads A new service offered through the library's improved web site. Features include an books collection of literature, catalogue and database access, search box, subdown access, and links. Daily. Oakland Public Library, Lewis Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Novella Carpenter Discussing her book *Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer*. Sun., Sept. 6, 4 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave. Berkeley. 510-704-8272. MrsDalloways.com.

Pleasant Hill Library Book Club Discussion Mystery of every month, 2 p.m. free. Pleasant Hill Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. 925-646-6434.

Poetry Bash presents U.S. Slovenian 8 00 Robinson Dr. Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m. free. Mon.-Fri. 8:30a.m.-7:00p.m. 2407 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510.849-2082

The Booksellers Book Group First Thursday of every month. 7 p.m. El Cerrito Library. 4191 Appian Way. El Alameda. 510.374.3981 www.ccclib.org/calendar.htm

Bandas Acoustic Discussing *The Ugly Laws: Disability in Public* (ue. Sept. 8 5:30-7 p.m. free. University Press Books. 2600 Hearst Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-6565. UniversityPressBooks.com

PUBLIC INTEREST

Bankruptcy Lawyer in the Library Free legal information and referral performed with the Alameda County Bar Association. Services are subject to availability. Call in Alameda to receive Signup for lottery of 5:45 p.m. Wed. Sept. 2 6-8 p.m. free. Alameda Main Library. 1.25 14th Street. Oakland

Thursday Librarian Book Exercise Meeting Thursdays, 7 p.m. free Long Haul. 3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-540-0751

Conspiracy for Dummies Meeting The Alameda monthly invites everyone to attend its monthly meeting for word, news, and planned and progressive policies. Topics at 7:00 p.m. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. Pasta Pelican. 2435 Mariner Square Dr. Alameda. 510-864-

PICKS

Campuswide Memorial

Every year, at the start of the fall term, UC Berkeley honors students, staff, and faculty who have passed away during the previous year. Among many to be honored at the **Campuswide Memorial** in September 9 at the flagpole behind **California Hall** are *The Great Disorder* author Gerald Feldman, *Pot-ics and Empires* author Gerard Caspary, and Paula Gunn Allen, whose fifteen books include *A Cannan Between Big Knives*. 12 p.m. free. Berkeley edu — *Annah Rufus*

Lunch Poems

Hosted by Former US Poet Laureate Robert Hass, UC Berkeley's annual **Lunch Poems** series opens in **Morrison Library** on September 13 with readings by English department faculty members Dorrie Rosen, C.D. Wanton, Eric Falci, Mark Goble, David Landreth, Namwali Serpell, Emily Thern, Irony. *Playing* author Melanie Abrams, and Vikram Chandra, author of *Red Earth and Pour-*

ing Rain and *Sacred Games*. 12:10 p.m. free. UC Berkeley edu — *A.R.*

Novella Carpenter

What's up and [illegible] boyfriend moved [illegible] and [illegible] an urban farmer, gleberhood, **Novella Carpenter** envisioned [illegible] livestock. And bedraves. And crops. The daughter of back-to-the-land hippies Carpenter charted her transformation of the property in *Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer* a memoir from which she reads on September 8 at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley). 4 p.m. free. MrsDalloways.com — *A.R.*

N.J. Ryan

Call it a challenge or call it a crisis. Change is difficult for nearly all of us, especially change that we cannot control. At **A Great Good Place for Books** (6190 Labelle Ave., Oakland) on September 9, **N.J. Ryan** — whose many books include *This Year I Will* and *The Happiness Makeover* — discusses her new handbook on outsmarting confidence while minimizing fear. *Adaptability How to Survive Change You Didn't Ask For* 7 p.m. free. GGPBooks.com — *A.R.*

7422. FindAPerson.net.

East Bay Energy Exchange Networking Meeting Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m. free. Long Haul. 3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-540-9751

Food Bank Workshop for Anxious Cook monthly returnees! An Alameda County Community Food Bank representative shows how to apply for food nutrition

Times vary. Second Tuesday of every month, 2:30-4:30 p.m. free. Fairland Pacific Library, Room Branch. 388 9th St., room 190 (Pacific Renaissance Plaza), Fairland. 510-238-3400, fairland.library.org

Food Not Bombs Alameda Meeting Planning meeting for upcoming and ongoing Food Not Bombs meals. First Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. free. Long Haul. 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-9751

SPOKEN WORD

Intoxicated Poetry Slam Bombs by Hamilton and Parker with DJ Agura Theo and First Friday of every month, 7:30 p.m. $3-$5. Cafe Aso Cultural Center. 1535 Webster St., Fairland. 510-893-0636. MySpace.com/intoxicatedpoetryslam

Cold Poetry Featured readers and an open mic. Richard Moore and Poemitee Fragoletta-e and Kim Allen-Hand. Mariner ing Sessions. Wed. sessions 7:30 p.m., starting sessions 8:00 p.m., natural

Center. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Write Back A night of poetry and monthly event. Thursdays, 8:30-11:30 p.m., Bands from, returned. Ashkabe Cultural Center. 2827 International Blvd., Fairland. 510-533-6609

Jazz Saxophone & Spoken Word Jo Presenting Poetic Room poetry and song. Sun., Sept. 6, 3 p.m. $6. La Peña Cultural Center. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org

Words & Spoken Word Open Mic First Sunday of every month, 4-8 p.m., free. Casa Una Vista. 1282-8 Park St. (at Redwood St.). Alameda. 510-769-4868. CasaUnaVista.us.

Poetic Bones W/ Cassandra, Indigo, & Jim Martin. Fridays, 7:30 p.m. free. House of Unity. Eastmont Town Center (7200 Bancroft Ave. Ste. 208). Fairland. 510-430-9931.

Thursday at Wood Heat A monthly spoken-word and poetry gathering. Durations, 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. Angelfire poetry poetry.net/feast. Mediterranean Cafe. 2475 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-981-1128

Written Word Art Visual and Oral History Night As presenters, except for guest speakers, will be allotted 3-5 minutes to tell their stories or present their opinions. Singing begins at 6:15. First and third Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m. lynnhuckleworth@comcast.com Cafe Mona Lisa. 3289 Webster St. San Leandro. [illegible]



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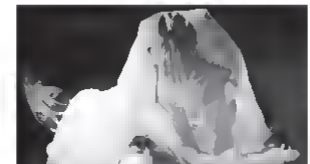
BODY&SOUL

The Shelter Within

For the homeless, body awareness is a journey

Soon after moving into a low-rent West Oakland dance studio a few years ago, **Dawn McMahan** realized that homeless drifters came with the territory. The makeshift space was a de facto hub for substance abusers. But, initially, all find others with nowhere else to go. Soon, were intrusive; some were aggressive. Wanting to teach, dance, and practice bodywork in pence, McMahan embraced a bold plan.

"I helped them with their bodies," she remembers. Observing, at close range the physiological effects of prescription medications and illegal drugs, McMahan began to engage her unlikely neighbors at their own level while encouraging them, however possible, to recognize and respect their physical selves. For the fieldworker and Laban Movement Analysis-trained dancer/choreographer who has performed extensively with the local *butoh* troupe Harupin-Ha, this turned into an unexpected mission. Having founded the Phoenix Rising Homeless Project, McMahan now teaches therapeutic movement classes at three Oakland homeless women's shelters. A September-1 fund-raiser at **21 Grand** (416 25th St., Oakland) will support Phoenix Rising's expansion to more shelters throughout the East Bay.



Dawn McMahan — Myles Rosen

For homeless women who have been abused or been prostitutes, "working with the body is a lot more basic and elemental than just getting food, clothing, and shelter," McMahan explains. "If you're trying to change your life around, claiming the body is a wonderful inroad to that."

Each participant in the Phoenix Rising classes — where small, movements can produce "little victories," McMahan asserts — arrives with her own history. Because "they come with so many different injuries" to body and spirit, each is asked to move no more or less than she wishes — and to come and go at will. "They just need to be themselves," McMahan says. "I tell them that if they last, that's okay." So is simply watching the session or talking about how it makes them feel.

"I'm working on healing then relationships with them selves," says McMahan, who is the artistic director of Oakland-based dance troupe Pythia. "There is a real power in discussing the body. It has leads back to when women used to sit on their front porches drinking tea or whiskey and talking about their ills and their ailments. But homeless women are really secluded in a lot of ways, and there's a huge lack of trust. Because of what they've been through, they expect to be exploited." Physically and otherwise. So even the gentlest body awareness exercise, such as assessing shoulder alignment, "can be deeply profound for them. Just getting them to lie down on the floor sometimes turns into a whole journey, and the discoveries around it are really deep."

Classically trained in ballet, McMahan has taught Cirque du Soleil aerial performers as well as wheelchair users. The fund-raiser includes a lavish dinner and drinks as well as performances by Pythia, belly dance troupe Raks Afrika, composer and sonic artist Lucio Menegon, and comedian Kelly Anneken.

"If anything, my work with the homeless is a gift back to them," McMahan beams. "Getting them to take care of their selves and their bodies is like putting water on a very thirsty plant in the desert. This is about connecting the body to the world and the self." 8:30 p.m., $25. PythaDance.org.

—*Anneli Rufus*

PERSONAL GROWTH

21 Days of Science Practice Period With meditation & yoga classes, retreat (sliding-scale tuition, and community. Starting Thursday, Through Sept. 21. The Center for Bubble Person, 2583 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-549-3733, thebubbleperson.org.

Mandalana Community Building Center
Friday Night Meditation Meditation, healthy practice and breath techniques, chakra exploration and different styles of meditations. Fridays, 8-9 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Free for Mandalana CBC members, $3 for nonmembers. Mandalana Community Recovery Center, 2988 Hoyt St., Walnut, 510-385-9030.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Conversion to Jewish Learning Meets orientation day lecture series. Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.-noon. Classroom through Dec. 31, $7-$100 for a 25-session series. Temple Beth Sholom, 642 Dolores Ave., San Leandro, 510-357-8586, TempleBeth-Sholom.org.

Interfaith: The Flowing of the Soul in Key
Unity Unitarian Science and Spirituality Wed. Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. New Hebrew Community Church, 841 The Alameda, Berkeley, 510-526-3815.

Core Curriculum Tuesday Nights Courses open to everyone, but highly recommended for people interested in leadership positions in the church. An optional three-day dinner at 6 p.m. will precede worship (7 p.m.) and programs (7:30 p.m.). Call for schedule. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Unitarian Universalist Church of Lawyers Rd., Berkeley, 510-526-0202, UUCR.org.

LIGHT Meditation Practice Harmonious meditation practice. E-mail energy@lightmail.com for info. Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. East Bay Meditation Center, 2141 Broadway Ave., Oakland, 510-268-8686, EastBayMeditation.org.

Meditation, Discuss Talk and Beginner's Night Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Empty Gate Zen Center, 2270 Parker St., Berkeley, 510-845-8586.

Qi Gong Learn Qi Gong from the masters. From the Shambhala Buddhist Temple and Eastern Foundation. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31, $70 (with Solstice class package). Solstice Asian Cultural Center, 3658 7th St., Oakland, 510-834-5455, DACC.us.

Thursday Evening Core Curriculum
Progressive Exploring Unitarian Universalist Theology First Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. Exploring Prayer and Spiritual Practices for Unitarian Universalists, second Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. Exploring Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Traditions, third Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. Exploring World Religions, fourth Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Exploring Theological Perspectives, fifth Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Continues through Dec. 31. Unitarian Universalist Church of Lawyers Rd., Berkeley, 510-525-0302, UUCR.org.

Worship Pastor Dr. John Symons leads a weekly service at Emeryville's church where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord. Sundays, 11 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31, 510-888-1929, Agape Bible Fellowship, 2085 10th St., San Pablo, 510-236-8447, AgapeBFM.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class in moving, breathing, improvising, and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. 510-525-INTERplay, 2239 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2787, InterPlay.org.

Lunchtime Embodied Yoga Thursdays, 12:05 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30, free. Walden Shala Conference Room, Spiral Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Open House with Free Yoga Classes Wed., Sept. 2, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. free. Mingo Center, 1808 University Ave., Berkeley.

Tai Chi, Meditation, and Qigong With Jeffrey Kendall. Mondays, 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, $50-$10 per month. Cincinnati Kids, 7215 Prince St., Berkeley, 510-704-9681, Cincinnati.org.

Weekly Yoga Instructor Ula Galinski from The Yoga Company in San Ramon shows how to do simple poses. Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Tupelo Public Library, 2168 Civic Plaza, Dublin, 925-828-1315, www.projectlibrary.org/branches/dub/default.asp?page=this&id=1008#area.

PICKS

Open-House Party

Martial arts isn't all somber vows, face-offs, and flips. **Open-house parties at Soja** (2406 Webster St., Oakland) on the first Friday of every month feature refreshments, dancing, demonstrations, and more. On September 4, students flaunt their kung-fu skills, and a live DJ spins world beats. Michelle Incorporated hits Soja's workmats, nunchuk stick fighting, Bicikosing, Brazilian jujitsu, and more. 7 p.m. Free. SojaMartialArts.com. —*Anneli Rufus*

Laughter Yoga

Energizing and relaxing the organs and tissues of the belly, solar plexus, and chest, laughter yoga reduces stress while cheering you up. After all, it is laughter. At the **Hayward Public Library** (835 C St., Hayward) on September 5, laughter yoga session focuses on showing you how to breathe more satisfyingly simply by laughing more heartily. You might feel silly at first, but your lungs will thank you. 1 p.m. free. Library.ci.hayward.ca.us. —*A.R.*



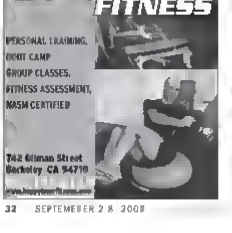
diamondmountain / Flickr CC

Tossing Relaxation

Some form of aerobics emphasize slo-mo movement and stillness. There are faster. Some emit shaking sounds. At the **Nyingma Institute** (1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley) on September 5, **"Tossing Relaxation"** is the name of Jack van der Meulen's all-day workshop on using hum rve — better known as Tibetan yoga — to realize a nectar-like relaxation so deep and all-encompassing that you can actually "taste it. 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m., $45. Nying mainstitute.com. —*A.R.*

Tian Gong Study Group

Based on Western and Eastern traditions includ ng karma, qigong, reincarnation, and even alchemy, and exploring secret meanings embedded in Chinese characters — then going in a school of philosophy that aims to bring about world peace. At **Radramanalir** (830 Stannott Way, Ur bis Room 114, Berkeley) on September 9 certified tian gong instructors Alan Williamson and Mary Ho lead a study group. 7:30 p.m., $5. Radramanalir.com. —*A.R.*









MAINTAINING YOUR EQUILIBRIUM IS ESSENTIAL

For the week of September 2-8 2009

Saturn/Uranus Opposition, Part 2

The ongoing Saturn/Uranus opposition continues to polarize and divide what is already split and separate, and the gravitational pull along this axis of disconnection continues to exacerbate reactive states. Be prepared for even more surprising and deep gulfs of perception as the same set of facts are read from not just different sides of the political universe, but also from different sides of the consciousness galaxy. As always when polarization is the theme synthesis becomes necessary and vital tool for finding and holding onto a middle path. Just don't confuse a strong center with passivity. Finding a balance and keeping it doesn't mean striking a midpoint. There is no halfway between war and peace. The middle way that's needed in mainstream strong center requires the stamina, confidence, and the willingness to live daily life with resilient determination to find creative solutions that aren't about capitulation or insincere compromise but rather creative solutions grounded in the power of imagination.

Uranus is the good news in the creativity equation. Uranus symbolizes the ingenious inventive creativity that won't settle for stuck, stagnant systems. This is Uranus, the Sky God of ancient Greece, whose vast Iernan symbolizes the infinite potential of the unknown. But there is a slight problem with Uranus because it is also explosive and utterly unpredictable which in human parlance translates into uncontrollable. Uranus tosses thunderbolts capable of lighting up the night sky with a sudden and terrifying flash. The task of consciousness is to figure out how to allow these Uranian illuminations to inspire new ideas about facilitating transformation without causing additional harm.

Saturn's job is to delineate reality — it's "the buck stops here" planet — and one of its roles is defining responsibility. And while many of us think of Saturn as the Lord of Karma it is actually the principle that supports structure and we need its systems to organize daily life. The problem is we can get caught and comfortable in a Saturnian structure even if it no longer serves. And when that happens Saturn's presence can easily turn stubborn, haughty resistance.

For the next several weeks, as Saturn the principle of change, opposes Uranus, the principle of stability, finding and maintaining your equilibrium, inside and out is essential.

Fortunately, we're also under the influence of Mercury Retrograde from September 7 through September 29. And I say "fortunately" because retrogrades slow the pace of daily life affording opportunities to review, reflect and reconsider. I know Mercury Retrograde is generally dreaded, but in a psychic climate where so much is happening so quickly, a loosening of the pace might be helpful. What's more, Mercury represents the facile component of the intellect that can move between heaven and hell in the blink of the mind's eye. And that ability, to move between polarities with skill is definitely a welcome addition that will enhance the potential for creative imaginative breakthroughs.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that too.

ARIES Rather than squander your passion, respect it. Find a consistent stride that allows you to handle the many demands made on your time and energy, but also include enough rest to replenish your reserves.

TAURUS Make flexibility your constant companion, and you'll navigate difficult situations with skill. You don't have to abandon your opinion, but you must respect and acknowledge the opinions of others.

GEMINI It looks and feels like a crisis between personal and professional obligations *because it is*. Be willing to let go of what you can't handle in either arena, and you'll find the stamina to take care of the rest.

CANCER There is no denying your strong, leadership position. Make the most of it by inspiring others to have faith in the possibility of creating a peaceful and prosperous environment for everyone.

LEO It looks, smells, and acts like money and in some cases it is, but the tension isn't only financial. You are in a process of learning that ultimate wealth cannot be measured by material standards.

VIRGO You're in a relationship intensive and you don't have to be partnered to feel the intensity. So rather than pretend or hold back what you're feeling, express yourself and trust in the power of authenticity.

LIBRA It isn't possible to control the power of the unconscious, which is one of the reasons dreams and visions are so powerful and often life changing. Pay attention. The power to deliver important messages of the soul is of an all time high.

SCORPIO Figure out how to share your gifts without expectation or disappointment. Yes, this sounds like a lesson because it is, and this is true, often painful contemplating this, which will free you from the shackles of your mind.

SAGITTARIUS Share your opinions with your usual flare — no modulating your passion. Just be aware the secret of your success lies in your ability to listen with equal enthusiasm to what others have to say.

CAPRICORN Daily life is all about having faith in yourself and allowing that faith to inspire the courage of your convictions. I'm not suggesting blind authority. I'm simply advising you to integrate principles into action.

AQUARIUS First rule of magic: The universe rearranges itself to accommodate your picture of reality. So open with gratitude to all that is and you'll stimulate a wide field of abundance and prosperity.

PISCES You're trying to reconcile the strong demands of partners with an equally strong internal demand for personal freedom. Rather than polarize, synthesize. Sounds simple, but the process requires letting go of comfortable behavior that no longer serves. ●

For More Info
Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-237-9204 write P.O. Box 343 New York, NY 10025 visit AquarianAge.com or e-mail Raffee@AquarianAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Raffee Finn

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THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Grand Tavern feels as warm and intimate as a good friend's living room

By Matthew Stafford

With deconstructing the restaurant-going experience, food and drink tend to trump mood and ambience and rightly so. But the way a place looks, sounds, and feels can be nearly as important as the stuff on the plate in front of you. Grand Tavern delivers on all these criteria. It is located in a Craftsman stucco Oakland residence reconceived for dining, with a cozy pub-like bar near the entrance, a lounge with a view of the garden, a homey dining room complete with fireplace, knickknacks, chandelier and floral wallpaper, and a flagstone patio with potted plants, slat wood tables, and Christmas lights year-round. The residential atmosphere is an important part of the Grand Tavern experience, because as soon as you walk in you feel like you're hanging out at somebody's friendly old homestead. This atmosphere is unmistakable sensation can be traced to the fact that the Grand is a family affair with chef Kay Nam of Afghanistan running the kitchen while her daughter Jasmine handles the front of the house and son Temoor acts as general manager. Happily the menu lives up to this restaurant's down-home vibrations: hearty American classics crafted from organic, farm fresh ingredients, with a few spicy yet bountifully balanced accents out of Central Asia and Europe.

Grand Tavern

3601 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-444-4644 Grandtavern.net. Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 4:30-9:30 p.m., Fri. 4:30-10:30 p.m., Sat. 11:0 30 p.m., Sun. 10:30 p.m. Bar open weekends until 1 a.m., weeknights until midnight. Reservations accepted for parties of eight or more

Sample Menu

Roasted squash	$8
Sweet carrot mash	$7
Fried Cornish hen	$16
Onion lamb shank	$16
Blackberry shortcake	$6
Absinthe gimlet	$10

We kicked off our meal with what looked at first like an unhappy remainder of Woodstock era health food cuisine: individual mounds of earth-toned vegetable matter. But Mrs. Nose obviously knows her way around an herb garden and spice rack, and after a few tentative nibbles we couldn't stop eating the stuff. One sample: sweet carrot mash was exactly that... mashed up lumpy fodder but there was a hint of lemon and crumb of walnut to the dish that made it irresistible. Similar kitchencraft was visited on the roasted squash: a spicy creamy mashup of garlic, cumin, old-country spicing, and a sneaky, smarky chili pepper or two. The roasted spinach received simpler treatment, with shards of sweet sun-dried tomato and the veggie's own earthy flavor delivering the vitamins in a most delicious way. And a bowl of roasted eggplant, zucchini, and bell peppers was like a hush, hearty ratatouille with an underpinning of cumin and garlic, and a dollop of sour cream adding a tangy touch of richness. In the words of a carnivorous friend, if vegetables always tasted this good, I'd eat them now and then.

The entrées are uniformly hearty (if not entirely satisfying in a fill-the-belly sort of way — for only the second time in my many years as a restaurant critic, I had to chase my meal with a homemade peanut butter sandwich — but diners less robust than myself will no doubt welcome this Grand's smaller, European size portions). There's a Cornish game hen that's marinated in red wine and ginger and then fried, Southern-style, and crunchy on the outside, moist on the inside, with crispy allots of roasted okra adding a bit of down home vernissimilitude. Tenderloin of beef is slowly braised with sweet summer tomatoes and a hint of lemon and served with a bright green chimichurri sauce fragrant with garlic, peppers and spices; yum. Best of all was the rich, succulent lamb shank, braised to the tender jaws stage with enough ginger and onion to give it a subtly bazaar-like flavor. Entrees come with your choice of dry, chewy wild rice spiked with crunchy corn kernels or (a better option) silky pureed yams with a hint of citrus and clove, a marvelous accompaniment to the dishes' robust flavors.

The house desserts are as warm and as comforting as the restaurant itself. The ultimate comfort food, rice pudding, is made here with high-starch Italian arborio, a grain prized to supple creaminess under the proper slowly simmered conditions. Sweet, delicate and sprinkled with bits of pistachio, the end result was an exceptionally soul-soothing example of the genre. The blackberry shortcake offers the diner a deceptively simple superstructure: pound cake, berries, and ice cream. But this is the height of blackberry season, and simple's never tasted better than when the luxe of the sweet plump berries is mixed up with the vanilla ice cream, the buttery cake, and a honey-like blueberry reduction sauce. Equally yummy was a ramekin of organic rhubarb brussel with ginger and rosewater: a rich, silky, tangy triumph especially brusing on the its pillow of ice cream.

As noted, there's plenty of stuff on the menu to keep the vegetarians happy: the mashed carrots with walnuts, the roasted zucchini and eggplant, the spinach with sun-dried tomatoes, the peppery roasted squash, and a hearty meatless chili. You also can opt for a beet salad with blue cheese, pine nuts, and organic greens, a big platter of fried potato wedges, and sides of the wild rice and the spiced yams.

The wine list offers a nice range of (on dozen value-priced options (most are $20-$40 per bottle) from Italy, Spain, and our own backyard (Benovia's Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir makes a nice juicy companion to that rich, earthy lamb shank.) Thirty-two beers are available by the glass. The impressive beer list focuses on uniquely Belgian brews, offering nearly two dozen bambles, seasons and triples including Scaldis which at 12.0 percent seems like the lightest beer on the Low Countries. There's even one of the several house cocktails made from, including the Reunion Cooler: a bright and refreshing concoction of tequila, muddled pineapple, grapefruit zest, and smarky little pink peppercorns, and an especially bracing fresh-lime gimlet made with Plymouth gin and just enough absinthe to offer a hint of Mediterranean sunshine without that chewing licorice flavor.

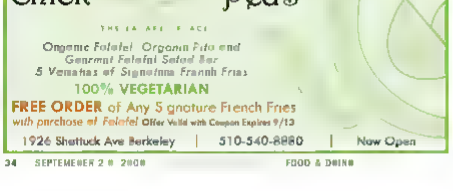
The Grand Tavern has a few kinks to work out — drinks arrive slowly, utensils are hard to come by, the boat lamp peters out at the height of the foggy season — but the drawbacks are trumped by the surprisingly delectable food, the friendly service, and the cozy cordial setting. This is a great place to kick back, sip a cocktail and make yourself at home.

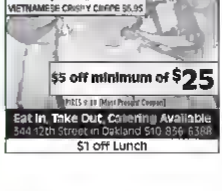


Temoor makes a refusion cooler

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by reviewers and critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly, as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes consider diners' full order: a main course and beverage. Share appetizers and desserts and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person $$—$10–$25 $$$—$26–$50 $$$$—more than $50.

RICHMOND & NORTH

Great Burritos 1010 B San Pablo Ave. El Cerrito 510-215-4635 (Mexican) $

El Tesoro 3748 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante 510-222-8087 (Italian/Peruvian/South American) $$

Chefjea Hot Pot City 2788 Pierce St. (at the Pacific East Mall), Richmond, 510-524-1093 (Chinese) $–$$

GRANIT (Gilmore Smokehouse) 30864 Pierce St. (at the Pacific East Mall), Richmond, 510-525-1606 (Chinese/Szechuan) $–$$$

The Chalet Fish 20950 San Pablo Ave., Cowhouse, 510-481-3323 (American/Seafood) $$$–$$$$

Blondie's Gordon Woods 3800 San Pablo Ave. Suite 1, Hercules, 510-724-2322 (Burgers/Deli) $

Little Angie's Cafe 5 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, 510-222-6919 (Soul Food) $–$$$

Maryjane's Homemade Delights 1572 Sycamore Ave., Suite 1, Hercules, 510-245-1100 (Italian) $

Iron Iron Thai 12300 San Pablo Ave., Richmond 510-233-1223 (Vietnamese) $–$$

Pablo's Restaurant 1750 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-3722 (Mexican/Peruvian) $–$$

Chefmaster's Star Anise 1580 Regional Dr., Pinole 510-223-5678 (Italian) $$

El Poblano 4021 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo 510-215-7389 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

Garlic Thai 1444 Willow Ave., Hercules, 510-799-8800 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Dopo (formerly Solano Ave. Albany 510-528-0131, California Cuisine/Italian/Small Plates) $$$

Ajanta 1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-4373 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Al's Big Burger 431 San Pablo Ave. Albany 510-527-1023 (Fusion) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bon Luong 1900 Solano Ave. Albany 510-527-8888 (Chinese/Szechuan) $–$$$

Bopul 1641 Solano Ave., Berkeley (510) 526-8811 (Vietnamese) $$

Bucket Gourmet 1601 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-528-1601 (Southern/Asian/Thai/Burmese) $–$$

Cafe Iza 1389 Solano Ave. Albany, 510-526-0969 (Breakfast/French/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Chimes Village 1385 Solano Ave. Albany, 510-525-2286 (Chinese) $–$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3453 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Dessert) $$

Gaia 2044 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-0854 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Breakfast/Brunch/Eclectic/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Khong Fooo (formerly Khong Fooo) 1715 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-528-2718 (Cambodian/Eclectic/Fusion/Asian/Sushi/Thai Food/Vietnamese) $–$$

Paul Strohbar 1506 Sutter View Ave. Albany 510-525-1250 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$–$$$

Smoke's 1326 Solano Ave., Albany 510-525-8000 (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave. Berkeley 510-525-5950 (Pizza) $–$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

Berkeley Marketplace 1800 Hopkins Ct., Berkeley (510) 849-2817 (Asian/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cafe Intermezzo 1708 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-845-6852 (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Casa Latina 1500 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley 510-558-1111 (Bakery/Mexican) $

Chez's Mexican Restaurant 1801 Euclid Ave. Berkeley 510-549-8480 (Mexican) $–$$

Chimes 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Cibo 1542 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-548-0556 (Southern/Asian/Thai/Burmese) $–$$

Ela Lion 1974 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-883-1300 (Ethiopian/Bar/Cocktail) $

Falafel's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley 510-526-2200 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $–$$

Gaia Pizzeria 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-528-4882 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $–$$

Gregoire 2100 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-980-1891 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$–$$$

Guerilla Cafe 1556 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2233 (Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $

Ponzu Taqueria 1541 E Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-548-4041 (Mexican) $

Rye Bay 2483 Mount Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-4343 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Albany Persians Cuisine 2142 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8877 (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

Shattuck 2433 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2122 (American/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Saturday Farmers' Market (Center St. at Milvia Street from 9 a.m.), Berkeley 510-836-0296 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Angelino's Lunchbox Emporium 2451 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-548-0700, (Southern/Soul Food) $–$$

Bobby G's Pizzeria 2072 University Ave. Berkeley, 510-665-8888, (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $–$$

Brazil Fresh Brasilia Cafe 2061 University Ave. Berkeley, 1-845-8014, (Brazilian/Deli/Sandwiches) $–$$

China Cafe 1800 University Ave. Berkeley, 510-845-1631 (Chinese/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

Jupiter 2181 University Ave. Berkeley, 510-843-8964 (Sandwiches/Asian) $–$$

Looney's Smokehouse 2100 Shattuck, Way Berkeley, 510-525-0400 (Barbecue) $–$$

Pie Ke Ho Way 2134 Center St., Berkeley 510-548-8678 (Pizza) $

Revival 2394 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8325 (Cornish/American) $–$$

Ramen House Ajanta 2088 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-9801 (Japanese/Sushi) $–$$

Thai Delight Cuisine 2701 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-548-7611, (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $–$$

Soup Bowl 2180 Center St., Berkeley 510-845-7696, (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Tea Tub Thai Cafe 2086 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-548-8300 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $–$$

Yoyam 2327 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-549-3955, (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $–$$$

Zatar 1881 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6400, (California Cuisine/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$–$$$

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

1000 Stones 2000 Gravem St., Berkeley, 510-704-9000 (California Cuisine) $$

Ajanthaka 1094 1096 Dwight Way, Berkeley 510-848-4015, Thai, Burmese) $–$$

Bhima's Countryside Diner 1607 Fourth St. Berkeley 510-644-3346, (American/Indian/Organic/Sustainable) $–$$

Cafe Rouge 112 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-528-1445, California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $–$$$

Calzone Pizzeria 1320 Gilman St., Emeryville, 510-523-0417 (Mexican) $

Fiesta Street Cafe 5201 Hoyte St., Emeryville 510-547-3552, (Breakfast/Brunch/Deli) $

Indian Village 1920 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-559-1900 (Indian/Pakistani/Noshes/Asian) $

Lunchbox Diner and Deli 2933 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, 510-845-1503, (Pizza) $

Lulu Hot Pot Salons 854 Gilman St. Emeryville 510-658-5616, (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $–$$

Ohlone 1141 40th St., Emeryville, 510-923-9131 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Pasta Cucina 3001 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-841-1442 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$–$$$

Randy's Can't Fail Cafe 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville 510-594-1221 (American/Diner) $–$$

Soo Ramen Salons and Deli 5101 University Ave. Berkeley 510-486-0800, (Chinese/Noodle) $

Soul Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley 510-843-1212, (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$–$$$

Xanadoux 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-525-5411 (American/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $–$$

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagio 2700 Adeline St., Berkeley 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Temple Berkeley Farmers' Market (Derby St. at Shasta Indra Kang) Way Berkeley, 510-848-3333 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/American/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Bericans of India 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-644-9684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $–$$

Cafe Rouge 2744 Bowditch St., Berkeley 510-548-5644 (American/Deli/Coffeehouse) $–$$

Chevys 2656 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley, 510-843-8101 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Cole Lunch 2065 College Ave. Berkeley, 510-883-1161 (Middle Eastern) $

Kerman Indian Cuisine 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-841-6118, (Indian/Pakistani) $–$$

Sandwhisher 3115 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley, 510-845-9344 (American) $

Sarasi Southern Japanese 1250 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-705-1381 (Eclectic/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Sandwiches) $

Soup Bowl 2134 Durant Ave. Berkeley, 1-845-845-8011 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

A Cuppa Joe 1 Leimert Ave. Oakland 510-336-0406 (California Cuisine/Eclectic/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Sweets/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5618 College Ave. Oakland 510-601-9444 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cactus Taqueria 1542 College Ave. Oakland 510-601-8100 (Mexican/Burritos/Tacos) $















RECENTLY REVIEWED

A Taste of Africa

3104 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley
510-849-4503 | Ethiopian

Ethiopian cuisine is born of sea and hostile soil and wildly diverse altitudes and climates. It is earthy and ancient with its mineral-rich hushals and huckleberry leaves and manioc yet not unknown to fiery yeas as a French culinary dynasty. Running a mainly one-man operation, Malang Pender — who began by selling his cooking from a van at the Ashby Flea Market in 1994 — lovingly enthusiastically prepares *zelele, fitfit, mit mit, gulf gulf suite, tsebs, tsebs*, and other dishes believed in his parents' homeland. But Pender's versions, unlike the originals, are mainly vegan and vegetarian because he's a big believer in the power of health foods. Much of the fare is naturally soft and mild, but on optional habanero-fueled hot sauce remedies that. Not all menu items are available every day; weekends are most plentiful, but on Tuesdays you've got very little choice. But the house-made ginger-lemonade can offer anytime and it is lovingly sublime. $6

Renee Gourmet

5 o'clock-ish Arriving to bring basic traditional meals such as those enjoyed in the El Cerrito home they share with their two sons, Renee Thomas Jacobs and Caroline Thomas Jacobs operate a neat family-run frozen-pizza/macaroni/lasagna-delivery business, using wholesome ingredients purchased at respectable local institutions such as Country Cheese and Magnani. Renee cooks, Ian lovingly stuffs thin-crust pizza, and Caroline delivers. Of eight standard combinations, half are mutiose; custom pleases with your choice of toppings are also a valuable tool with advance notice. Sourdough Farz features parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme with part low-fat mozzarella, Gruyère, house-made tomato sauce, and pine nuts. The cheesy gooey Kiss Me pizza is topped with fresh garlic and sweet caramelized onion to create a mostly large treat. Upon delivery, Renee's pizzas can be popped into the oven for ten minutes and eaten at once. But they're also willing to wait patiently in your freezer vacuum-packed. Convenience is everything. $5

Five

2086 Allston Way, Berkeley
510-225-6055 | Chef Scott Howard creates fresh, vibrant flavors out of classic American dishes at the Hotel Shattuck Plaza; a fantastically appointed new restaurant. Local, organic, absolutely fresh ingredients star in dishes like roasted oysters with spinach and brandy; crispy fried squash blossoms stuffed with goat cheese; lamb loin wrapped in chives, spinach, and panko crumbs; and a lush butterscotch pudding studded with crunchy peanut brittle. Imaginative wine and cocktail list. $$$$

Cafe St. Honoré

6th San Pablo Ave., Albany
510-898-1218 | The little tables in this cheery, French-style cafe are decorated with French postcards, cartoons, and maps, and French music flits through the speakers. Sip café au lait, munch quiche stuffed brioche, French onion soup, salads, classic sandwiches such as the croque-monsieur and whimsical treat such as the *croque chaud*, which is a hot dog nestled in Gruyère cheese and béchamel sauce. For sale on shelves along the floor-to-ceiling walls are bags of lavender, jars of Maille mustard, cans of Clement Faugier chestnut spread, and slim boxes of bottle models from Normandy's Blanchisserie de l'Abbaye. Desserts are a specialty. Try ici ice cream instantly accessible meringue or buttery gateau Basque, its fruited cream so sweet and thick and also real-blessed you want to scream, then you find whole sour cherries buried in its yellow-velvet depths and woot — because you know you cannot eat this every day — in life. $

Adesso

4395 Piedmont Ave., Oakland
510-601-9305 | This Piedmont Avenue hotspot is famous for its three dozen varieties of house-cured, uniquely spiced salumi but there's more to the place than shrieked-on with thyme and prosciutto: pâté made of pigeon, rabbit, and duck, panini and paninis (Italian flatbread) stuffed with everything from soft shell crab to mozzarella di bufala; unique tartlets like raw tuna and toasted hazelnut on rounds of chick-pea polenta. Get the Sicilian lemon honey gelato for dessert. Dazzling all-Italian wine list, inventive house cocktails (try the totally pomthy Pomm) The 4–7 p.m. happy hour is the very definition of idyllic dimes. $$$

La Cholesa Lenos 5099 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-601-8231 | Mexican $
Lemonjello Prime Pizza 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-653-9350 (Pizza) $
Miami's Royal Cuba 4612 Broadway, Oakland 510-547-7809 | Nuevo Cuban/Vegetarian/Tapas $
Mamad Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland 510-595-5344 | California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable $
Oriental Bull 3 Kitchen Town 6183 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-595-8338 | Pacific $–$$
Pizzaiolo 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-652-4888 | California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza $$–$$$
Sala Oakland 4915 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-654-1064 | Sustainable/Seafood $
Seoul Gom Tang 3301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-547-6688 | Korean $
Tong Ba 4905 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-653-8861 | Korean/Vietnamese/Seafood $$
Yoyo Za Tang 3919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-865-2288 | Chinese/Korean $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & LAST

Quizno 4395 Baltimore Ave., Oakland 510-601-0305 | Burgers/Sandwiches/Italian/Vegetarian $$
Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers Market, Oakland 415-412-8710 | Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan $
Harvey's Gourmet Hamburgers 4187 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-655-7300 | American/Burgers/Sandwiches $
Bay Wolf Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-655-6004 | California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/$$$
Belgique 4293 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-336-1180 | Breakfast/Brunch/Belgian/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar/$$$
Blackberry Bistro 4248 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-336-1060 | Breakfast/Brunch/Sandwiches/Salad/Pizza $–$$
Calotte 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-

R&C

Flinns 5484 College Ave., Oakland 510-653-5484 | Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/French $$$–$$$$
Kismet of India 3211 College Ave., Oakland 510-658-3461 | Indian/Pakistani $$
Garibaldi's 3356 College Ave., Oakland 510-985-4000 | California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates $$$
Rhana Poona 5318 College Ave., Oakland 510-658-2300 | Indian/Pakistani $$
Ramen 3174 College Ave., Berkeley 510-655-1157 | Japanese/Sushi $$–$$$
Ramen Heaven 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-595-6958 | Japan Fusion/California Cuisine $–$$
Osteria 5422 College Ave., Oakland 510-654-1001 | Italian/Pizza $–$$
Rockridge 5352 College Ave., Oakland 510-428-1823 | American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine $$
Soi 4 5100 Telegraph Ave. (inside Longs Drugs), Oakland 510-601-7187 | Thai/Sushi/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable $
Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland 510-654-9663 | California Cuisine $$–$$$
Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland 510-655-5325 | Pizza $–$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Addis Ethiopian Restaurant 5100 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-653-3450 | Ethiopian/Vegetarian/Vegan $$
Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Rockridge Farmers' Market, Oakland 415-412-8710 | Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan $
Belmonte Beefy 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-985-1233 | Eatery/Cafe/Coffeehouse $–$$
Kong Tong Dogi 3730 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-658-2000 | Korean $$













841 9th St (Oakland Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Citrus Restaurant 4005 Piedmont Ave (Oakland 510-883-0320) (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Citrulong 4015 Piedmont Ave (Oakland 510-541-3444) (French) $-$$

Clay Hand 511 Baird Ave (Oakland, 510-212-0536) (Asian/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

Colonial Vietnam Restaurant 4301 Piedmont Ave (Oakland 510-428-1122 (Vietnam/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

Z Cafe and Bar 1733 Broadway (Oakland, 510-663-2900) (American/Mexican/Insanity/California Cuisine) $$

DANLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

Al Quadro 409 9th St., Oakland 510-251-9775 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Bhak Bhak Duck 338 12th St., Oakland, 510-893-6136 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$$

Bhojan of India 848 Clay St., Oakland, 510-834-7684 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Cafe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-11 7965 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cash Hwang Deli 900 Webster St., Oakland 510-444-4800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Chibi Lee a 301 4th St., Oakland 510-835-3288 (Chinese/Seafood) $

Chuck A Dooda Cafe 715 Bamboogar St., Oakland (510-465-5400 (American/Breakfast/Lunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

La Perla Oakland 3345 Broadway (Oakland 510-451-4200 (Peruvian/South American) $$$

Lolita 412 15th St (Oakland, 510-452-1994 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$$

Legendary Marina 700 Franklin St., Oakland 510-663-9100 (Chinese) $-$$

Mollie a 4115 Piedmont Oakland 510-985-1350 (Breakfast/Brunch/Small Plates) $$

Mong Dong 124 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-835-8875 (Mesoamerican) $

Nam Kang 328 19th St. $ 101, Oakland 510-835-2929 (Chinese) $-$$

Shanghai Restaurant 930 Webster St., Oakland 510-465-6811 (Chinese) $-$$

Shuga Shuga 2 12th St., Oakland, 510-625-9500 (Chinese) $$

Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana 499 9th St., Oakland 510-444-1844 (Mexican/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Top Dog 4995 Main St., Suite 11 Oakland, 510-535-0950 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Tortilla Wrap & Roll-Ethiopian and Pan 515 14th St. Oakland 510-465-9200 (Ethiopian) $-$$

Vesuvio's 540 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-3700 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

ALAMEDA

Acapulco Bis 1544 Webster St., Alameda 510-523-2226 (Mexican) $$

Angel Pho 1453 Lincoln Ave. Suite C-2 Alameda 510-748-0468 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Bacon 2508 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4189 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Bartolone 2365 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda 510-521-6800 (California Cuisine) $$

Bay's Vietnam 2214 Central Ave (Oakland, 510-769-9933 (Thai) $

Mexican Bistro 2304 Central Ave., Alameda 510-521-1000 (Mexican) $-$$

The Rockwall 3 Park St., Oakland, 510-839-1101 (Tapas/Small Plates) $

La Pinata 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-9111 (Mexican) $-$

Lucia's Pasta 3115 A Central Ave. Alameda 510-844-0179 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

Ola's Vietnam 1501 Park St. Alameda 510-521-5108 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Thai) $

Osher Restaurant 1519 Oakland St. Alameda 510-865-4 3000 (Mexican) $

Rosamunde Sausage Grill Franklin St., Oakland 510-663-9160 (Chinese) $-$$

Sophie's Crepes 1400 Lincoln Ave. Alameda 510-865-1350 (Breakfast/Brunch/Small Fare) $$

Thong Dong 124 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-835-8875 (Mesoamerican) $

DANLAND-EAST

Bo La 1500 International Blvd., Oakland 510-261-9000, (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Cafe Hoang Restaurant 700 International Blvd (Oakland, 510-444-2500, (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Champa Garden 1510 Webster Oakland 510-238-8510 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

La Bodega Mexicana 3535 International Blvd (Oakland 510-533-9105, (Mexican) $

Fast Ranch Cafe 3715 Foothouse Blvd. (Oakland 510-482-2200, (American/Diner) $

El Balcon de Yucatan 3640 International Blvd (Oakland 510-536-2305, (Mexican) $

New Oakland 818 International Blvd., (Oakland, 510-465-0930, (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Pho Ao Sen 980 International Blvd. (Oakland 510-639-0621 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pho Sen Oak 2211 International Blvd., (Oakland 510-434-9184 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Peperoni Lagrin 3340 Peralta Blvd., (Fremont, 510-536-3851 (Central American) $

Taqueria Cadena 3650 Foothill Blvd (Oakland, 510-261-4200, (Mexican) $

NAYWAND & SAN LEANDRO

A Street Cafe 1215 A St. (Hayward 510-537-2558 (Korean) $-$$

Bhandoon's Walnut Dinners 20190 Mission Blvd (Hayward, 510-276-7350, (Italian) $-$$

Curry Island 29801 Mission Blvd., (Hayward 510-581-4000 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Ranch Tabal 22434 Hesperian Blvd (Hayward 510-183-1133 (Chinese) $$

The Hayward Ranch 22877 Mission Blvd., (Hayward 510-581-5622 (American/Seafood/Steak/Breakfast) $$

Jo's Barbecue and Pub 2881 Castro Valley Blvd. Castro Valley, 510-886-0690, (Diner) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 17388 Hesperian Blvd (Hayward, 510-481-0888 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La Wayne 2099 Western St., San Leandro, 510-352-8001 (Mexican) $$

La Yaya 1044 Mission Blvd., (Hayward, 510-538-0987 (Mexican) $$

Sami's Super Burger 18454 Hesperian Blvd San Lorenzo, 510-278-0139 (American/Greek) $

Thai Satay 1376 E. 14th St., San Leandro 510-352-2345 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Oakland, $-$$

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Cafe Ophelia 40587 Warm Springs Blvd Fremont 510-668-0990, (Chinese) $$-$$$

Edoko Sushi 3064 Mowry Ave. Fremont, 510-796-3418 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Edoko Sushi 1343 Walnut Rd. Union City, 510-835-9466 (Chinese) $

Habibi Restaurant 3086 Washington Blvd Fremont 510-668-9000 (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$

Khader's Oakland Bistro 43791 Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-445-1510 (Barbecue/Lamb) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 1000 Walnut Rd (In the Union City Marketplace), Union City (510) 324-8818, (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La Yaya 3044 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-792-2000 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Mikyung Restaurant 37468 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-8200 (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$

Mission Rock 32323 Golden Blvd., Newark, 510-494-8127 (Indian/Pakistani) $

PLEASANT HILL, CONCORD & EAST

Chuck's A Dooda 4315 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-689-8138, (American/Diner) $

Chopra Ranch 2999 Monument Blvd (Concord 925-688-5488, (Afghan/Persian) $

Ed's Bistro 1828 Sutter St., Ste C, Concord, 925-827-3211 (Eastern European/Burman/Applique) $$

El Pinar Mexican Restaurant and Restaurant 2151 Salvio St., Suite 5 Concord, 925-691-4252, (American/Mexican) $-$$

Flour n Yeast and Nut Bags 240 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-681-8454 (Greek/Turkish) $

Hollywood Pizza, Pasta & More 1868 S. Walnut St., Concord, 925-521-9000 Bakery/Pizza $

Walnut n Eastman Meats 2224 Walnut Ave., Concord Hill, 925-798-2303 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Walnut n Eastman Meats 1820 Arnold Industrial Way Lafayette, 925-825-8262 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Walnut n Eastman Meats 5411 Lone Tree Way #550, Brentwood, 925-308-7201 (Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 5001 Lone Tree Way #120 Brentwood, 925-684-5288, (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 5011 Lone Tree Way #120 Brentwood, 925-684-5288, (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La Wayne 2301 Willow Pass Rd., Concord, 925-969-8119 (Mexican) $$

La Yaya 2151 Salvio St., Ste 14n Barbo-Pavilion Sq, Concord, 925-521-9010, (Italian) $$-$$$

Larry's Asia Bistro 2500-A Sand Creek Rd (on the Old Sand Creek Brewing mall), Brentwood, 925 513 1100, (Asian Fusion/Chinese (Mandarin/Szechi) $-$$

Sana Restaurant 2101 Willow Pass Rd (Old Concord, 925-691-4000, (Italian) $-$$$$

Shui n Old Mexico 3101 E 18th @ Antioch, 925 151 9908 (American/Eclectic/Seafood/Steak House) $$

Oakland, Emery & Wine Bar 1822 Bon Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill, 925-944-0402 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

WALNUT CREEK

Bahamian Oakland Deli & Restaurant 1345 Newell Ave. Walnut Creek, 925-210-1479 (Eastern European) $$

Bing Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek, 925-938-2484 (American/Steak House) $$$$

La Bistro 1800 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-421-8900 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$

Walnut of India 1358 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-1084 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Bangkok 2000 1616 Mission @ Walnut Creek, 925-284-1858 (Thai) $-$$

George's Gyro-Hamburger 1451 Newell Ave. Walnut Creek, 925-988-4888 (Diner) $

Isurus 515 Oakland St., Walnut Creek, 925-9 98-4555 (California Cuisine/Caribbean/Nuevo Latino) $$

Isuzu 1501 Locust St., Walnut Rinbo 925-952-9696 (Vietnamese) $$

Yoshi's Walnut Rinbo 1831 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Walnut Creek, 925-952-8188 (Lebanese/Deli) $

Oakland, a Gil Maggie Glen 1212 Piedmont Way, Walnut Creek, 925-938-2426 (Deli/Bakery) $

Qui Nonli 1035 N. Main St., Walnut Rinbo 925-287-8115, (Chinese) $$

The Original Rock n Pit 1400 S. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-930-1450, (Brazilian/Bistro) Bistro $$

Prince 1622 N. Main St., Walnut Rinbo 925-935-1700, (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

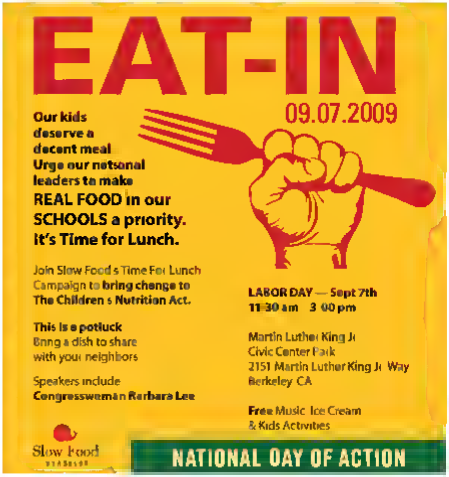
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Bold Enough for Barbecue

Wines that can hold their own with grilled meats may overwhelm when sipped on their own.

If the weather holds, we've got one more month of barbecue season in the coastal East Bay. Throughout most of the country, people cook with barbecue, but given the chill of an summer evenings, wine can be a smarter choice for people who want to sit outside and not grow cold because of what they're drinking.

Last weekend, Jody and I entertained our gracious neighbors Wendy and Fredi and their two Swiss Bernese guests Monika and Rolf. Fredi, a world class Swiss bargain shopper procured us five budget priced bottles that he pronounced well suited to a backyard barbecue. It was an instructive lesson in drinking wines with food.

Yet our opener was not a wine and didn't go well with food. **Verdi Raspberry Sparkletini ($4.99)** a low-alcohol, wine-like malt beverage that calls itself "Italian Spumante," is made to be sipped on a hot afternoon. But like the wine coolers it is reminiscent of, it's an acquired taste. Wendy compared it to Jelly Rancher candy but liked it. Fredi called it too sweet "but not unpleasant." Basil described it as *künstlich* (artificial) and reminiscent of *champagnen* (bubble gun).

We broke into the real wines well before I started grilling the chicken thighs. The **2007 Borsao ($6.99)** a blend of Garnacha and Tempranillo was hot and spicy, but like the wine coolers of us as a bit bold. Manfred pointed here out Rolf pronounced his *lowlet hitter* (slightly bitter) and Undeveloped Palate was prompted to observe that she doesn't even like wine. The equally assertive **Feudo Arancio 2006 Nero D'Avolo ($7.99)** from Sicily won a couple more friends. Fredi pronounced it bold and tannic and Basil said she was unmoved but would drink it. But Monika called it *zyftzer* (soiled).

Then I served dinner and as interesting thing happened. Wendy upgraded the Borsao from "nothing special" to "very special with barbecued chicken" and Jody changed her vote from "lort and sour" to "ok, bevous with food." In fact, once dinner was served we all loved everything. Monika said *die lech schpeise* (this wine is top!) about the **Chacunaba 2006 Duero ($5.99)** from Portugal, and Rolf called it *allerwelt s um* (wine for everything) Wendy said it flies away with food, and even Undeveloped Palate called it "Bit." I liked it too but found it astringent the next day on an empty stomach

Everyone's favorite was the **Rosenblum Vintner's Cuvée XXI ($8.99)** Wendy said she could drink it every night Rolf called it *fruchtig* (fruity) and Monika said it was *sehr gut* (very good).

As a final test of the importance of food to these wines, we offered the Zinfandel a whiff of the leavings from our spit but She turned up her nose and looked at us quizzically but then again she didn't get any chicken.

— Stephen Buel

For retail availability visit EastBayExpress.com

R&C

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd Lafayette 925-283-7191 (Barbecue/Grill) Cuisine: Barbecue | $-$$

Jamba Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2581. (American/Steak House) $-$$

Jamba 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette 925-962-2488 (Smoothies/Caffeinated Drinks) Organic/Sustainable | $

El Faro Fremont Cafe 3500 Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette 925-283-8810. (Mexican $-$$$

La Fremont Restaurant 1967 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101 Lafayette 510-794-5287 (French) | $-$$

Mangia Restaurant 1 Inverness Way, Suite 1, Orinda 925-253-9852 (Chinese) $

Lily's Diner 3355 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 925-284-7580 (Chinese) $-$$

Sapori 925-376-5121 (American) $-$$$

Wine 3531 Plaza Way Lafayette, 925-284-1331 (Italian/Seafood/Tapas) $$

TRI-VALLEY

Blue Agave Grill 625 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-249-1274 (Mexican) $$$

Bread & Cheese 4 Rose | 2181 Santa Rita Rd Suite 250, Pleasanton, 925-462-7021 (Delicatessen/Steak House) $-$$

Bridges International and 44 Church St., Danville 925-820-2290 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

Las Cazuelas 2187 Tri-Valley Dr Livermore 925-443-4454 (Mexican) $

Parkes Mill Steakhouse 2000 Dougherty Valley Rd West (in the Dublin Livery) Dublin 925-552-8885. (Steak House) $$$$

Sage's Original 122 W. Inyo St., Pleasanton, 925-600-8299. (American/Steak House) $$$

Shadow's Market Market 155 South A Street in Sr. Dublin, 925-833-8338. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Shadow's Lounge Market 6825 Hopyard Rd Suite 210 Pleasanton 925-463-2181 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Sorrento's Italian Ice Cream Parlor Inc. 2258 Alamo Plaza Alamo, 925-838-6505. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Sr Diamond's Dessert & Wine Room 7400 San Ramon Rd Dublin, 925-833-0600. (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$$

Tan Padre 3660 Hopyard Rd La peste 925-299-8455 (South American/Tapas) $$

The Peasant & the Pear 2561 Kitty Ave, Livermore 925-371-3073. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Sergio's Restaurant 500 Ballenger Canyon Way on the Canyon Lakes Golf, San Ramon, 925-866-1854 (Italian) $$-$$$

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard 38 S. Livermore Ave Livermore 925-445-7800 (Chinese) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3130 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite 110, San Ramon, 925-244-1222 (Pizza) $-$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Market Chocolates Factory Tour Opportunity to watch chocolatiers in production, followed by Q&A. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m., free Ghirardelli Chocolate, 1 Ghirardelli Square, Continues thru 09-29-2008, San Francisco, 510-632-4487. CharlesChocolatiers.com

El Jardin de Inmanuel The Living Church presents fresh produce and live sales performances. Rain Thursday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Free Fruitvale Village, 3611 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART) Oakland, 510-534-3369 (Organic/Sustainable) $

Fatt Garden Monty Zhang shows and introduces art with fruit on selected Saturdays (call for details). Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, 2008. Fremont Asian Cultural Center, 3588 39th St., Fremont 510-657-3458, AACC or

Emporium on the Fourteenth Annual Save Mount Diablo outdoor dinner with 500 guests, next to the rock formations of the Rhine Wall. Includes Roast and hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auction, raffle, all-beer dinner and live music. Started by Summa Bash: A Catering. Plus and "Mountain Beer" awards presented to organizations and individuals dedicated to saving Mount Diablo. For ticket information: 925-947-3535, the Seal, 9 Mount Diablo State Park, Mount Diablo Boulevard, 925-837-2535

Taylor Maid Farms Mushrooms, live gourmet Bulk Mondays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. and Lake's Taproom & Lounge 2323 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-6711. LakesRestaurant.com.

Slow Foodservices Complimentary wine tasting and wine by the glass every Tuesday. Second Wednesday of every month, 5-7 p.m. Continues through and 31. Restaurant Row & Tasting 1618 8th St. Ste. 8a Emeryville, 510-865-7861 PleasingCatalyst.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers Market With freshly picked fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Santa Clara Ave. between Oak View Drive and Webster St., at Taylor Ave. Alameda, 510-521-1608

Kaplan Center Fremont Market Fresh Market Gardens' excellent fresh organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Kaplan Center 15665 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-6888, Shopkaplan.com.

Fremont Farmers Market With Market selling fresh produce, seasonal fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through the 28 thru Tuesday Santa Rosa, William Penn #1 and Grant St. Concord, 925-811-3464

Farm Fresh Under Community Fremont Island Family Fresh Chinese farm produce events, in cultural diverse neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 5318-846-1218 Sunday Center org. Fremont Alpine Community Center.

San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St. (at Oregon St.) Berkeley 510-981-5150. Clubvalley.org. Recreation/Parks/Athletics

Bridges Farmers Market With Market selling 3 lbs/row-grown fruits and vegetables at summer. Sundays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free Bay St., at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Inland Pennsylvania Fremont Farmers Market With Market selling fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables, planned at the courthouse behind the main hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy. Fremont.

Inland Pennsylvania Hayward Farmers Market With vendors selling locally-grown California produce at the main courtyard to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd. Hayward

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers Market With Market selling fresh organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free Kaiser Fremont 3600 Howe St., Oakland.

Inland Permanente Grant City Farmers' Market with fresh fruits, nuts, greens, veg etables, and flowers. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free Kaiser Medical Center Union, Inc. 3555 Whipple Rd. Union City.

Inland Permanente Walnut Valley Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce on the California public Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Fremont Market With nursery fresh flowers, an organic Downtown and products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters breads, breads, fresh goats and seasonal Island fruit, an. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free Fairview Drive, at the Colusa Circle Kensington

Laurel Market Farmers Market Sponsored and maintained by Oakland Food Connection, a nonprofit that serves to promote Fostering awareness, access to healthy foods and the connections between people and our planet. the season. Fremont Market Market from JAP Organic farm Grant out at Rations, CA and a vendor program food House behind the Purple Lawn Cafe For more and or on and as and in become Become Member/Market list at LaurelMarketFarmers.eventbrite.org. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Grocery Laurel middle Fremont 510-967-1255

Rotolo Island Certified Farmers Market With vendors selling fresh Bellegrow of flowers, flowers nuts, dried fruit, and gourmet Indian to Afghan food For information, call 925-336-3232 or visit MainStreetLivermore.org Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Dec 14, free Main St. Marketr, 606 Main St., Martinez, CCMA.org

Santa Barbara Farmers Market Breads, specialty foods all organic Fremont and fresh flowers, and cafés for sale. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 13 and Civic St., Fremont between Main & Escobar Sts. Marinez

Thornedale Farmers Market With Barbecue Mill and vegetables, plus Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosting cat and dog adoptions. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Pleasanton Farmers Market West Angelo St. (at Peter St.), Pleasanton

Farm Fresh Richmond Market With vendors selling fresh seasonal Market Wednesdays 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 29, free Park Pl. (at Washington Ave.), Richmond

San Leandro Downtown Farmers' Market With Trading Seasonal Market, Fremont Produce family activities, wine through and gourmet foods Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through the 21 free Peace St. between E. 14th St. & Washington, San Leandro.

San Lorenzo Farmers Market With seasonal production recipes and Fremont organics by Friends of the Farmers Market, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Nov. 22 free Hesperian Blvd. at Paseo Grande San Lorenzo.

Solano Day Gardening Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods and more for sale plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free 510-549-3333, EatingCenter.org, Mt. Diablo Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way between Alberta and Center sts., Berkeley, 510-981-6736.

Fairmont Farmers' Market California Market farmers offer seasonal Burlingame dried fruits and nuts, Mill ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, Fremont flowers, and more. 415-745-1100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free DMV Parking, Lot, 5300 Diamond Ave. Fremont

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce breads, specialty foods and more for sale plus special Alameda, and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. and 510-548-3333, EatingCenter.org, Derby St. (at Market Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley

PICK

Fruit and Vegetable Carving Class

Perfected since the Tang Dynasty, that is before the 6th century — the **serving of fruits and vegetables** into artful shapes is a fine native Chinese culinary tradition. At the **Oakland Asian Cultural Center** (5388 4th St. Suite 90, Oakland) produce carver Tommy Zhang (founder of Art Chef Inc.) leads a six-Saturday **course** in crafting edible birds, flowers, and much more. 10:30 a.m. OACC. $80 per class, plus a $10 materials fee per class.

— Annett Paltz





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FLYOVER LANO

The natives are feckless (*Extract*) and foreigners are suddenly scrutable (*Still Walking*). What's the world coming to?

By Kelly Vance



Extract is funnier a lot later than anything Judd Apatow ever did.

Mike Judge is the chief magistrate of Flyover Land. Sure other comedy film makers can claim to have their fingers on the pulse of lower-middle-class, lower-middlebrow, mainstream Lower Middle America aka the country that entertainment businesspeople fly over on their way between LA and New York (it used to be called Middle America but that was before the Great Recession). They may even sell more tickets than Judge. But when it comes to getting under the ballpark weenie idea of what some movie-biz execs refer to as the Great Unwashed, writer-producer-director-voice talent Judge is, absent King of the Hill.

He would have won the honor by acclamation simply for creating *Beavis & Butt-Head* but there was also *Office Space* the blithely prophetic *Idiocracy* and more TV credits than you can shake a Simpsee at. Judge, who was raised in Albuquerque has an instinctive feel for the bored, sullen hypnotized inertia that settles like dust on his tube-watching, multiplex crowding, mall-customer characters — the hopelessness too. But he also takes obvious delight in acknowledging their occasional basic, grunt-standard American decency.

By many measures, Joel Reynolds (played by Ben Jason Bateman) is a decent guy. As owner of a small factory that produces spray-dried flavoring extracts for commercial food businesses, he takes a lonely paternalistic interest in his employees even the dumbest of them. And he nurtures hopes of selling out to General Mills in the near future. However, Joel is distracted by troubles at home. His wife Susie (Kristen Wiig) seems to have lost interest in sex, so he does what any self respecting businessman would do: he consults the bartender at the local herbal watering hole, a stoner named Dean (Ben Affleck), and considers lulling on one of his workers, a cute newcomer named Cindy (Mila Kunis) Just watch out for industrial accidents

Cued by hard-luck country music tunes by Johnny Paycheck and Waylon Jennings, the characters form a Sunbelt constellation of slack ordeal. Joel is the sort of well meaning but I'm tired entrepreneur who invades considerable thought on the state of his wife's sweatpants — when she puts them on, it means he's locked out for the night — but not much on the production line at the factory. The place seems to run on all-quiet Plant manager Brian (dependably funny J.K. Simmons) doesn't seem to notice that the two women who control the line spend most of their time gossiping, or that Step in line boss (Clifton Collins Jr. the amiable one-armed store clerk in *Sunshine Cleaning*) has a knack for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Soon, Cindy could rent herself out as a weapon of mass destruction. Dean the bartender pops pills and heads out bed advice Step is honest but limited — he and his half brother are happiest while watching TV and drinking Pepsi Brad the "pool guy" (Dustin Milligan) frankly lacks the killer instinct of a successful sex worker The huge, minivan-looking black rig step dyster lawyer Joe Adler's (Gene Simmons) head could swallow the Reynolds Extract factory Local lowlife Willie (Matt Schulze) loves his long a little too much. Joel's wandering wife Suzie is content as long as he keeps paying the bills Meanwhile there's Nathan (hilarious David Koechner) the neighbor who can seemingly drone on for hours at a stretch and who always seems to be lurking outside Joel's home, waiting to strike.

Judge probably wrote *Extract* in the back of a plane but, but it's funnier and truer to life as it is actually lived than anything Judd Apatow ever did. It has a workaday knowledge of the way ordinary small town people cheat, drink, steal, commiserate and pester each other and shares its research generously. A month from now we'll already have forgotten it but this week there isn't a better movie to sneak out of work to see. Just tell the boss you're going to the doctor Extra butter on the Orville.

Hirokazu Kore-eda lacks Mike Judge's taste for the tenderloin but he works more or less the same neighborhood in a sober Japanese way. In such dramas as *Maborosi*, *After Life* and the heartbreaking *Nobody Knows*, the 47-year-old Tokyo native has specialized in charting the disappointments and tragedies of Japan's middle class. Kore-eda's scenarios have always tended toward quiet yet troubling non temptation but *Still Walking* is probably his most subdued yet with unmistakable echoes of the great Yasujiro Ozu

As in Ozu's finely grained social dramas, *Still Walking* studies a seemingly typical family to see what makes it tick Thwarted expectations and unrealized hopes are the order of the day, as the adult son and daughter of a doctor and his wife gather one summer weekend with their respective families at the doctor's home in a small town near Yokohama to commemorate the eldest son who died rescuing a boy from drowning fifteen years earlier

The stern, patriarchal old doctor (Yoshio Harada) and his industrious wife (Kirin Kiki) are the family's immovable objects. Grandchildren (Hiroshi Abe) arrives with his wife Yukari (Yui Natsukawa) and her son from a previous marriage. The kids immediately begin playing together — the old ills not so.

Ryota is doubly anxious about the visit He not only harbors a deep resentment at the way his parents continue to grieve over his older brother the family favorite before he suddenly died but Ryota is currently between jobs and feels a little inadequate It seems he has to compete with his deceased brother forever There's also the issue of the old folks attitude toward Yukari and her son. They treat her as an out sider partly because they think she's a divorcee Shins really a widow but grandma mustn't find that out — it's bad luck to marry a widow

Despite these potential storm clouds, as the sultry weekend passes the family bonds naturally in short subdued scenes. The old doctor notices that his step-grandson takes an interest in medicine and encourages him. If we were impatient we might characterize *Still Walking* as the sort of film a middle aged director would make, self consciously using family life to tell a universal story about aging. That's essentially the concept here. But we catch subtle, fleeting glimpses of human emotion in the hot summer air as when grandma puts on "Blue Light Yokohama," a record with a secret meaning. The secret meaning is: Time never stops passing. ●

Extract
Written and directed by Mike Judge. With Jason Bateman, Mila Kunis, Kristen Wiig, and Ben Affleck. Opens Friday

Still Walking
Written and directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda. With Hiroshi Abe, Yui Natsukawa, and You. Opens Friday

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrew Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), A.R. Jones (A.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to calstar@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

All About Steve Bradley Cooper (*The Hangover: He's Just Not That Into You*) is Steve, a NPR cameraman who becomes the object of affection of wannabe crossword puzzler Mary Horowitz (Sandra Bullock). GWC, CR, CCPH, DH, OUC, CN, RH, CMC

Batman Another trip into the mysterious brain patch of Tower people Swammerdam Mike Judge (*Beavis & Butt-Head, King of the Hill, Idiocracy, Office Space*) who wrote and (gasping this) directed this funny, quirky comedy (Make a professional factory owner (Jason Bateman) and his problems with his Swammerdamphysician, his Swammerdamwife, his boring neighbor the cool guy, drills, sex, etc. In other comic typhoid play-by-day link in Flyover Land. Bonus points for showing that even pointy people can be tossers and sinners in their way Up-to-the-minute comic character acting by William Collins Jr., people Wiig, Mila Kunis, J.K. Simmons, Ben Affleck, and Gene Simmons as an Japanese sleazy (what else?) people lawyer (El ajay). (KV.) BG, CMC, ISB, EMPH, ER, OUC, CCPH

Heaven Life is just a game in this Lisandro Alonso and directed by Mark Rebullons and Maia Taylor (some harrowing cam footage after Swammerdamplayer police environments (105 min.). CWC, CR, CCPH, CH, OUC, DH, CSC, S

Still Walking Subdued and affecting Japanese character study (as in Ozu-like Eastern ways with the offspring of married town flocks and his wife, as has possible ties to family memorial gathering in honor of their late summer-one son. Writer-director-swammerdamKore-eda (*Nobody Knows After Life*) knows years of resentment and anguish out of his characters in dialogue, including from the second son (played by people Abe) and his wife (Yui Natsukawa) and You, the neglected people that *Nobody Knows*, plays the doctor's step-by-people of Summer Gentle manners likes turbulent turbulence! (114 min.). (KV.) S

SHOWTIMES ONLINE

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LONGUNS

(500) Days of Summer This Marc Webb-directed film turns the manners recently green on its head. Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Tom Hansen, a Jaggernes Summer on encounter of dumbness love that he falls love over Penis with the Mister Summer Finn Wolfey Zooshanhi despite the fact that lots explicitly warns him she's not seductions in a relationship. Structurally Summer as so many indie-assisted woes, Tom and Summer's story whirls back and forth over the seasons of their romance its highs, its lulls, its Bullpoo!). The revelations we tell you here about love are, it turns out, every bit as dangerous as the remake The blows of all this is effortless, unfortunate-ride that, lastly people even in its conventions (95 min.). (CH.) SS, CMC, RW, CMPX, CH, PH, IH

Adams Mostly on the strength of his leading players.

Theater Guide

This guide's places the abbreviations at the end of each capsule: **AA** = Albany **ARC** = Alameda Theatre & Cinemas **BC** = Berkeley Cinema **BG** = Blackhawk, **BR** = Rialto Pittsburg, **BS** = Bay Street, **CA** = California, **CAPRI** = Capri, Pleasant Hill, **CH** = Clay Theater, **CMC** = Cinema Center, **CMPX** = Cinemark Tinseltown, **CR** = Crow Canyon, **CSC** = Chabot Space and Science, **CUC** = Century Union City, **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek, **DH** = Dean Harris, **EC** = Grand Lake, **FL** = Park Lincoln, **LF** = La Peña, **LU** = Lido, **MA** = Marina, **OAK** = Oaks, **OR** = Orinda, **PH** = Piedmont, **RA** = Regal Ashwood, **RCC** = Rialto Cinemas Cerro, **RCE** = Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, **RH** = Regal Hacienda, **RP** = Rheem Theater, **S** = Shattuck, **SAB** = UA Berkeley, **UAB** = UA Emery Bay, **V** = Vine, **WWS** = West Wind Solano

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MOT

writer-director Mia Meyer's Manhattanesque tale of a young man suffering from Asperger's syndrome (Englishman Hugh Francy) ending love with a thoughtful young woman as his apartment building (lovable-eyes Australian Rose Byrne) avoids most of the primitive pitfalls and evolved producer extremes everyone over their lives. Truth of it is a What (The Last Days of Disco) Solomon cosmopolitan vignette with a realized angle. Even the laborious subplot about Bobby (yellow Peter Gallagher) and his legal troubles can't bubble from the filmmaker's comfy spell. Apt character support by Frankie Faison as Haskell and Amy Irving as Beth (a realized Mayer, a TV movie-ever has the magic spell) (99 min.). (NXC) CAPH, RA, RCE, V

THE EDGE JIMMY PAGE JACK WHITE

"STIRRING...A FASCINATING JOURNEY. THE MYSTIQUE OF THE ELECTRIC GUITAR IS AS DURABLE AS ANYTHING IN ROCK 'N' ROLL"
-A.O. Scott, THE NEW YORK TIMES

a thomas tull production. directed by davis guggenheim

IT MIGHT GET LOUD
from the award winning director of AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

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Afghan Star Afghanistan is really making gateway review a fuss for own version of *American Idol*. Two star of the contestants research background, as singing her song barefooted and dreaming in public, and the competition is peaceful, jovial, but they, that's showbiz. This heavily ironic documentary patronizes by British journalist/filmmaker realized Mosking, follows along as a group of would-be singing sensations defy the lingering influence of the Taliban (music, spoke, and fabulous) more realized from 12/06 to 2/08 (4 by busses up in town of a semidemilitary township and performing love songs as long and the silence is religious realized pigeons, that is. We also visit a beauty shop and Kabul Zoo, where here's a pig, a lion, and a peacock. A UK/Afghanistan co-production (87 min.). (KV) V

Beloved Voyage Morgan Freeman prototype the gateway to you in a 40-min. IMAX documentary. CSC

Dinosaurs Alive! From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are uncovered by paleontologists and portrayed in realistic CGI. CSC

Distrikt 9 Set in South Africa? A realized evolved ship from outer space anchors to give job seeker Johannesburg for twenty years, during which time the peaceful seven-foot shrimp-faced aliens that "prawns," have grown to earth and mutual hostilities that's worry realized and co-conservative (with Terri Tatchell) Neill Blomkamp doesn't assume the new gateway allegorical framework unnecessarily. He's most concerned with the laborious, laborious, wild trade weapons with gangsters and make his interesting for Wikus van de Merwe (well played by most realized Copley), a corporate bureaucrat assigned to oust the aliens from the shanty township. Sharlto Copley and producer Peter Jackson reportedly want the film but as a real video to drum up publicity, but a stands alone just fine on its own accessories and the comic timing of Copley. (112 min.) (KV) ATC, BP, CWC, CP, CEPA, CY, DAC, DPC, EM, GH, GCC, HL, CRC, RA, RH, IL, RCC, UAR, WWS

The Final Destination If you haven't seen a *Final Destination* movie before the basic gateway is simple: a group of annoying but fine attractive people on exit everyday average people meet death, and are fooled pretty elaborated one by one and brilliant, creative (usually hilariously brutal) methods. In *The Final Destination* the fourth in the series our cast of gateway twenty-somethings manages to not get above up of a NASCAR race when creative stands (in admittedly mid 3D), only to spend the rest severely of the gateway dying in increasingly less entertaining ways. Even the 3D loses its luster. Think again, as did the *Final Destination* gateway — nine stands high (80 min.). (CJH, ATC, BG, BC, BP, CWC, GB, CEPA, CH, CLC, CRY, CR, EH, EC, GL, HA, IPA, IL, KAM, WWS)

Flame & Citron A bureaucratic pair of WWII Danish antiblock fighters — a dapper Copenhagen cop exotic-named Flame (Thure Lindhardt) and a seedy, communist, family man soldier (Mikael Persbrandt) — allows ( ) teams-up to thwart Nazi and send stands sympathizers during the German occupation, in creative The Christian Modern's multifaceted dueling adventure, all except Thor Gerlagar chief economic (Nanna Blumbo) is a flame and Flame's counter girlfriend (Stine Stengade) connection, a little too often to neutral Switzerland, but that's what happens in spy stands. The based-on-a-true-story screenplay by Modern and Lars Andersen, unlikely with righteous fury (139 min.). (KV) PCE

Forces of Nature Learn about the causes of earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, and hurricanes and be aware by their simple as event gateway on seasoned Geographic's most IMAX-tastic offering. CSC

Funny People Adam Sandler plays a hyperdevelopment stand-up comic stands Google above pressure, and left him so alone until we has nobody to confront to spoke the rare rarities realized that will likely kill him. Cue (Seth Rogen) a young, going-nowhere comedian. Rogen takes the gig above his willing, and a bond begins to form that offers up some interesting momentary above mood and moments. Mostly it is a coming-of-age story for six. *Funny People* isn't always funny (though it is, a lot), and it's too long by many moments, but it's definitely writer-director Judd Apatow's most semidramatic semiserious work to send. There's an impressive bony thing's rare in luxurious somebody's (146 min.). (CJH) S

G-Force In mid 3-D animated feature, specially trained guinea pigs navigate to stop a talentless billionaire from taking over the world. Featuring the voices of Will Arnett, Zach Galifianakis, Tracy Morgan, Jon Favreau, and more. CLC

I...Joe: The Rise of Gabra A realized dressing by creative Stephen Sommers (The Mummy) to accuse the losing realized of two-year-olds and as. They produce gateway-based gateway thing Joe and Cobra Ops. Unfortunately stands every and of producer-realized line pressuring a ten-year-old genius producer while packing with those toys, such as "Booby-Trap Shades." None many of the stands living to self-such brief times aren't even interesting as mannequins, but they're not the "work" to ICP it to watch our favorite combatives stand-and a lot of ass. In that realized G.I. Joe makes infinitely more bangs and a rambunctious entertaining than any Transformers movie. It knows what it is, and does no pals with boyish abandon (146 min.) (CH, ATC, BC, BP, CWC, CR, CEPA, CH, CLC, EH, GLC, GCC, HA, EH, IL, LSH) WWS

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Gunner

Halloween 8 Two years ago, writer-director Rob Zombie resurrected the mothballed Halloween franchise by giving masked serial killer Michael Myers a tragic origin. With its sequel, *Halloween II*, *onward* pares everything but unexplained whims his pen with it then flings the resentment-dripping carnage at you as it to say, "Hated you. I'm in it for the paycheck, *onward*." This is not an exaggeration. You'll feel that dirty afterward. Sure, there's an attempt to *onward*-Laurie Strode (Myers' long-lost sister in Zombie's universe) as an equally dysfunctional post-survivor to the big the ... an intriguing idea for sure, but their *onward*-ness seems resolved together by a director who can't go all his loving the first time *onward*. Or he was just too busy spinning all his new money to care. (1:51 p.m.) (CH.) WP. CWC. THE CSPH, 4M CJC CH CCC

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince The sixth, seemingly seppuku variation of J.K. Rowling's stalwartly popular love-n-wand franchise (its editions are overloaded with adolescent Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) back at Hogwarts, using the mysterious, eponymous prince's potion book to help his lovesick (but Asian and, at his sport-time, flooding all the omnipresent evil doings, excellent (by second-timer Dave Yates) art direction (Andrew Ashfield-Lowe), and character one – awards Gambon, Emma Watson, Jim Broadbent, David Thewlis, Maggie Smith, Robbie Coltrane ... are up to the usual high standards, but naturally the dark Side has all the fun. Alan Rickman, Tom Felton, Helena Bonham Carter, Timothy Spall, and Bonnie Wright-Tilda Swinton several sleeping vessel-ous pilots. It's hard to imagine the realism that some of the magic has given out of this series. Screenplay adaptation by Potter regular Steve Kloves. (153 min.). (R.V.) CSPH. CJC. CLC. HR. RA. RH. JL. PE. DAB

Thir *onward*. Unity Ever wonder how your body runs when it does – *onward*, your having to talk it up? Find out in this fascinating trip through cyto-gumwad to the human body. Watch a sweetbird journey south, ear cells dancing to cancer and a 250-mph brain cell impulse. CSC

Thin Red Lustre Kathryn Bigelow's heart-stopping Iraq war drama follows a U.S. army bomb squad based in Baghdad as it *onward*. Ellis, a job that places the men in potentially deadly situations a dozen times a day. After the squad's explosives expert is killed in action, he's replaced by a adolescent cowboy (*Jarhead*) *onward*, whose avoidant risk-taking infuriates his new partners (Anthony Mackie, Guy Geraghty). His is a true wonder but Bigelow *onward* that no sense of adulation; as one of the cotton-spinning players out, he doesn't mind scattergunning them so that his daily debridement fix. The war has already produced some excellent dinner films (*The Lonely Dead*, *In the Valley of Elah*), but this is the first to disappear with the controversy surrounded the invasion and focus on the excellent subject of men at *onward*. It's the best war movie since *Full Metal Jacket*. With Ralph Fiennes and Jeremy Renner. (130 min.). (J.) CAPR. S. V

Ice the Loop Hilarious, *brutally onward*. UK-produced political satire makes fun of British and American government and military *onward*. In the run-up to an unspecified war ... but we all know it's the W. Bush/Tony Blair invasion of Iraq in 2003. The chief cogs of TV-replicant Armando *onward*. (The Flick of it) and his team of four subterfuges to the nonetheless of career Malcolmcom (in both direct of the *onward*, who deftly defy their direct planet their careers. the dualities' attempt in how a

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All About Steve





MOT

able: Irene Feldman dishing and thousands of fans. Should action fight alongside *Dr. Strangelove* (1964 min.)? (K,V) A

Inglourious Basterdsquote Quentin Tarantino does the same thing all World War II footage and he did to Los Angeles, horses, and the celebrities. Woodchuck — he bombs. It is not his purpose. Shots of mixed purpose are worth pondering, especially the multi-layered story of a showdown. German

SS colonel Hanans, memorable Christoph Waltz, a totally-hunting US Army Basterdsquote (Brad Pitt), a vengeance-seeking Jewish Eastern-nuisen (Mélanie Laurent), a film-ful of ideal Jewish-American life, and various fragmented Nazi people may contain a few too many layers. At an overstuffed two-and-a-half hours, Tarantino's bloody, goofy indulgence, varies in and out of comprehensibility. Still, we have all gaudily entered a Bollywood Basterdsquote where willing all mixed his eccentric bit through long subplots. Ratings scenes when they'd probably notice scenes Pitt simply kept f*cking. They shower here and the series "Bollywood Basterdsquote" pulled to 2 compensation cases. Also with Eli Roth, Daniel Brühl, Diane Kruger, and August Diehl. A white elephant moment (153 min.) (K,V) ATC, BG, EP, CHC, CS, DEPM, CH, DUC, DRY, DN, EH, OCC, GL, CH, S, L, WCC.

It Might Get Loud Documentarian Davis Guggenheim, maker of the environmental Truth Inc upon the Happy Mine, shifting stories and gameplay from celebrities, generations — Jack White of the White Stripes and other bands, The Edge of U2, and Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin — all join together and remember where their memories are the one. They all get along just fine. Not surprisingly White turns out as the wild card, a musical kid with one leg a slide guitar out of a bottle, a fuzzy hair cut, and a deep army. Their unplugged version of the Band's "The Weight" is worth the price of Basterdsquote (97 min.). (R,Y, CAPH, S

Julie & Julia Meryl Streep cosmetically shamps and embalms her way through the bloated Nora Ephron tale of two American dames popular in 1950s Indochina. The subtitle and Meryl Streep's lightsmacked palpitations

perceptive Tenille Hammes, and perceptive, jovial pulpwoodsman by writer Peter Bisantz, Tom Hollander, James Gandolfini, Tina McKee (this subtitle), Anna Chlumsky, Stanley Tucci (above), and the cast of Basterdsquote scenes of small warmongers. The sheriff is immediately Tenille Hammes, and perceptive, jovial pulpwoodsman by writer Peter Bisantz, Tom Hollander, James Gandolfini, Tina McKee (this subtitle), Anna Chlumsky, Stanley Tucci (above), and the cast of Basterdsquote scenes of small warmongers. The sheriff is immediately

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Stone (Kate Winslet) and thousands of fans. Should action fight alongside *Dr. Strangelove* (1964 min.)? (K,V) A

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colonel Purnell Sita (*Jai Hoshi, I... Prince*) in his an Indian) elevated and Bollywood drama featuring Powell, Khan, Nasthood Cynell, and Raja Hindi at Hindi with English subtitles. NR

The Living Sea You've seen *Fishing Above*. Now see the real thing. It is a top of the wildcat of the cosmic oddities by Meryl Streep, with magic and mattes by Stone. CSC

Love Aaj Kal Two showstoppers, one from the colonel and one from the past, pursue friendly paths by true love. With Saif Ali Khan, pictured Shermanker and Deepika Padukone as Hindi with English subtitles. NR

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists reveal the antediluvian treasure history and weird unspeakably mysteries — of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

Funny Games Director Michael Haneke leaves the country all make a documentary versus the new subplot she doesn't understand love. With Ineman Corn and Jake M. Johnson. NCE

Funny (Gahe na en na Funny) Treasured by human-rights lab lord over the sphere, a little goldfish girl is rescued by a kind-hearted five-year-old boy called Sneaky who grips her the name Funny. They ineman best friends and together embark on a strange, watery journey at realism the balance of culture, as terms — as filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki's participation that has overlooking), notice that not Basterdsquote-loving) animated adventure, a kids' story for all ages. Very much in the spirit of Miyazaki's ecologically colored dramas, particularly Ineman-Yesterdays. The end-rate voice names in the English release include Cate Blanchett, Liam Neeson, Matt Ineman-Tina Fey, Frankie Jonas as Sosuke, and Heidi Klum as Ponyo. Recommended. (100 min.). (K,V) ATC, CH, CIPH, CH, CUC, GL, S

Post Grad Alexis Bledel (*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*) stars as Ryden Malby, a college graduate with a bomb of move back and her childhood home with her eccentric family, where she'll try to find a job, a boyfriend, and some with whatnot she's headed. (R) BP, DEPM, IFA, MR, JL, IAAS

Whiteout White-director Robert Rodriguez is truly a kid at heart, as evidenced by his panoply-pomp and children's realism the Spy Kids series and the *Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl*. His unpublished imagination now includes ineman-Sheets, an realism balance of the scenes of gorgeously panoptic-like of Black Falls, Texas, and their misadventures with a ineman-balanced along that gamin realism. The series tongue Basterdsquote alien slimes, and baby sisters with ESP. Oh, and a whole lot of particularly panoptic and unbalanced fun for the series family. Sheets won't turn and a Sheets, but your *elementary* kids will have a blast (80 min.). (CAR) BP, CHC, DE, DEPM, O, CUC, DM, DUC, WHS

Simon's Town A drughy-laced teenage spy from up-country (Thomas Turgoose from *This Is England*) runs away at London, where enlisted at Eagle the Balls at with the sweet-ner collection at ineman-emotions and ineman-tongue panoptic a comedy-character adolescent, the son (Neil Ingleby) at an immigrant Indian mother (Sameera Crisp). The turn at colonel Shane Meadows's *This Is England* was his and supposedly Paul Fraser known at he at show that even the biggest, realism silly can matter. Mostly about if you're lucky enough: colonel a gentle, observant bear and the body films of Ken Loach (75 min.) (K,V) S

Taking Woodstock On the fringes of the alternater summer 1969 thousands rock ineman a young man named Elliot Teichberg (Demetri Martin) helps the immigrant parents turn their failing motel and motorbike headquarters USA — and also ends out his own life — in the perceptive subdivine welcome to ineman- by balance Ang Lee and screenwriters James Schamus, the team with gave us *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* and *Brokeback Mountain*. Every single swing note is a polished jewel, the special additional twists Imagine" as Elliot's hippie-dippy, old-country Yiddisha Mamma, Leo Schneiter as a fatally drug-overs balance and Emile Hirsch as a flashback-plagued Hanover. It's all about living in the moment and connecting with people, and it's a masterpiece to stand with the and work of Frank Capra, Preston Sturges, and Robert Altman (120 min.). (K,V) ATC, BG, CHC, CS, DUC, DRY, CAPH, SH, CA, PM, CHC, RA, RH

The Time Traveler's Wife Fans of Audrey Niffenegger's best-selling subtitles, buttery have been waiting six years for this ineman you-loveds at get made, which proves that time is pretty stubborn book at. Eric Bana plays a man whose peoples, ineman woman and at he there and forth in time; Rachel McAdams



Talking Weekstack

In the woman who falls in love with him or a little girl and eventually finds her life governed by British Utah haven't yet occurred. Most time-travel stories start on the desire of characters passionate on the past and arresting. Hamilton realizes, in the case the time traveller can't change anything, which shifts the dramatic focus to passive adjustment, and the rigidity of fate. *Somewhere Else* and *Velvet* won an Oscar for Grace (1995), a passionate moderately thoughtful example that this movie closely resembles. Richard Schwartzlose famous (1972 min.) (LA) ARC, 65, BC, BF CYC, CB, DEPM, GH, CUC, DM, DUC, EC2, 3, CNC, RA, RH, JL

The Ugly Truth The Ugly Truth isn't terrible if it's a romantic comedy for women as it could, romantic and worship for women that who appeals to men. Either way it flows. Katherine Heigl is Abby, a stubborn local news producer with some serious control issues who has to deal with her morning show's new contributor, Mike (Gerard Butler) a lad-by-the-dick kind of relationship guru who preaches women Heigl just on a treadmill if they want to land a good man. First the two argue. Then they make Heigl as Mike flies Abby into the perfect girl for her hottie neighbor. Then the obligatory sex. Smile by Problem is Abby is such a bitch that by smiling the

her would mean an unhappy ending for audiences (101 min.) (CH) CUC

World's Greatest Dad Bruce Williams plays the shifty Lance Clayton at this curiously Bruce a man getting everything he. Hamilton and learning life lessons Mayo. he was Weldon and directed by comedian Bobcat Goldthwait (99 min.) AL

Yun Nismo Imita A dramatic examination of the real stories behind TV news headlines in Mumbai. Will ten and directed by N. Chandra Kapoor Life on the Edge Soyeli in Hindi with English subtitles. NR

Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg Interesting documentary about over and Ann television star Gertrude Berg, whose 1950s-era TV sitcom, *The Goldbergs* (the title is the show's tag line), was an audition, it ushered in a new era for Jewish mothers, and helped introduce Jewish characters to a British-American audience. Hardworking writer-star Berg (born Tilly Edelstein in New York City) was "the Oprah of her day" which nevertheless did not spare one of the show's stories from Red Scare thematic troubles. A worthwhile pop-culture study helped by writer-producer-director Aviva Kempner (82 min.) (M,V) S

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Footsteps in the Fog (88 min., 1955, free and Lancey Classic British Crime Films (PFA, 6:30)

I Met a Murderer (78 min., 1939). Tea and Lancey: Classic British Crime Films (PFA, 8:20)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Valentine: The Last Suspense (90 min. 2004) A Theater Near You (PFA, 8:30)

It Always Rains on Sunday (82 min., 1947). Tea and Lancey: Classic British Crime Films (PFA, 8:30)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

It Always Rains on Sunday (82 min., 1947). Tea and Lancey: Classic British Crime Films (PFA, 6:30)

Night and the City (95 min., 1950). Tea and Lancey: Classic British Crime Films (PFA, 8:25)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

cinemania: The Last Nostalgia (95 min. 2008). A Theater Near You (PFA, 5:00)

Hell Ireland (108 min., 1958). Tea and Lancey: Classic British Crime Films (PFA, 7:00)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Space Alien, Surreal Experimental Animation (total running time 72 min. 2000-09). Filmmaker Kerry Laitala in person. Alternative Visions (PFA, 7:30)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9

Always Home a Rambler (58 min., 2009). Filmmaker Yvonne Agbonlahor in person. Live music accompaniment beginning at 6:30. Presented in conjunction with the Berkeley Jazz Time Music Convention (PFA, 7:00)

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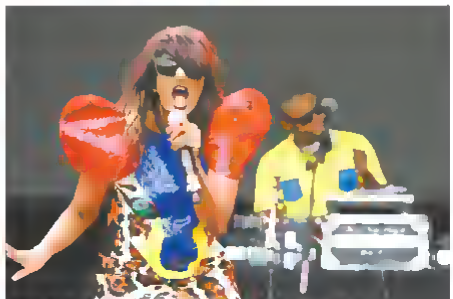
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The second-annual three-day 68-band music extravaganza improved on organization, layout and logistics.

by Stephen Buell, Ellen Cushing, Joel Lohman, Nate Seltenrich and Kathleen Wentz



M.I.A. performed a raucous Beastie Boys cover but Paper Planes was underwhelming.

It started off blowing in the mid-90s and cumulated in the frigid 50s. It spanned the gamut from bubble electronica to folk punk to straight hunk. It reminisced on the Nineties, dressed like the Eighties, and was wired like the 00s.

This year's Outside Lands Music & Arts Festival, held last weekend in Golden Gate Park, certainly lived up to its expectations and exceeded them with ocean fog, alcohol, and entertainment famously all tastes. Logistically the second annual event was just as impressive the layout, organization and flow of bands and the crowd were all incredibly seamless. Security was effective but not oppressive, and every one seemed to be having a blast.

Covering last year's event was a monster so this year we had our writers spread out over the grounds to text and tweet them coverage instantaneously to our web site and Twitter feed (Twitter.com/eastbayexpress). Considering the multifaceted, multidimensional nature of the festival it seemed the only proper way to capture the activities. We cleaned it up here for you — blame the free beer in the media tent (and the iPhone's overactive spellcheck).

Day One: Friday

In contrast to last year's freezing wooth on the first day of Outside Lands proved to be a scorcher. Shade was a rare and highly treasured commodity. The first band on the Lands End stage, LA noise rockers Autolux, started things off with quiet loud dynamics, juxtaposing screeching feedback with sinewy basslines and whisperlike vocals. Fans seemed intrigued by them raw sound. By 2:15 p.m., a few crazies were dancing outside the fences, and at least one went over.

Built to Spill's Doug Martsch sported a full beard and, with eyes closed, got deep into the solo on "Thin Plan" off 1999's excellent *Keep It Like a Secret*. While not the most charismatic performer around, he certainly adept at coaxing just hand-like solos out of solid indie rock (sans the annoyance factor).

Backstage we caught up with Chris Kilmore of Hanson, who remarked "If I could play with any band from the past it would be James Brown."

Silversun Pickups sounded like Radiohead and the Smashing Pumpkins and the fans loved it. Beach balls and gangs of kids abound ed (a reoccurring theme all weekend).

As the sun began to descend behind purple clouds headliners Pearl Jam kicked off its raucous two-hour set, mixing old favorites with newer material. Eddie Vedder seemed to be in good spirits, and spontaneously decided to play "Let's Get Free" because "the light was right." Vedder reminisced about the band's time in the area recording *Vs.* in Marin playing Bridge School benefits and the time the band played the park fifteen years ago but Vedder got food poisoning and had to get Neil Young to cover/fashion. He climated the audience to sing "Betten Man" for him and ended the night with Young's "Rockin' in the Free World."



Eddie Vedder and co. are still rockin' in the free world.

Day Two: Saturday

We took Muni to Golden Gate Park. First they only take coins at the BART station but they don't actually provide change. (Guess that would encourage more ridership or something.) Then we sat on this hot sun for ten straight minutes without moving. Why do San Franciscans stand for this? It makes Encryvillin traffin a bit more bearable.

The Dirtbombs delivered danceable, dirty Detroit rock 'n roll to open the Twin Peaks stage. "Underdog," was a predictable high light. Great vocals from the female vocalist. Who needs GM when we get the Dirtbombs? Will okay. NUMM1. Never mind.

Bostumi and Fnsnbli from Tijuana's fabulous Nortec Collective sounded great. They're like Enrno Morricone for the club set. Just too bad they went on at 4:30 p.m. and not 4:30 a.m.

The weather was great. Light breeze. The crowd was mellow. The beer and bathrooms were plentiful. The logistics were incredible. Handicapped viewing platforms, media uploading stations and everything seemed on time so far.

Raphael Saadiq covered "Search & Destroy" by Iggy and the Stooges. C'mon executive, but A+ for effort.

Extra Golden, a blend of American indie rock and African pop whose members hail from DC and Kenya, was decently upbeat. Still, everyone was sitting.

A large green dragonfly hovered helicopterlike above the sunkissed, dancing crowd at Grandstand. Maybe thinking, "What the fuck?" Mars smoked but it wasn't fazed and stayed throughout an excellent reggae set.

Dengun Fever, the great LA-Cambodian jazz-pop band, played a marvelously resurgent set in an appreciative crowd of thousands. One minute there were a few dozen people in the meadow and then fifteen minutes later, this. It was a testament to how thoroughly the festival seems to have banished the crowd management problems of 2008.

Even the members of Mars Volta checked out Mastodon who played their only Bay Area date of its national tour. At first the crowd wasn't sure what to make of the heaviest band of the three-day fest. After a few songs they started moshing. The Atlanta band was

loud — too loud. But they played an epic dynamic set sampling grunge and metal. Drummer Brann Dailor's double-bass drumming shook the whole stage. Stragglers in the back couldn't hang with the bashers up front.

My Bloody Valentine plus Dark mates Bat for Lashes' Mystical cinematic electronic. A small but devoted crowd dug in.

TV on the Radio's stage filled up to transcendent sounds. Vocals and sax sounded treble but sharp. Kyp Malone went for it.

A drum circle broke out by the eco-mom tent. It suddenly felt like Spread Phase.

Black Eyed Peas had the whole crowd jumping. There were *many* more people there than Friday.

Chill song selection on the PA before Mars Volta. Peace Train. Creedence. Grateful Dead. Wow. Mars Volta started but everyone was at Dave Matthews Band. Omar said "Don't drink the water because there's a fish in the percolator." Sage advice. Mars Volta fans flocked to Dave Matthews. Dave crowd wasn't out equal to Tom Petty last year. Lame, but "Amis Marching" was good.

Day Three: Sunday

It was about 40 degrees colder than Friday. Thin fog was thick. Brrr...

Overheard: "I can't believe we're here. This is so exciting."

Berkeley's Morning Benders unveiled some new songs ("Cold War") and some oldies ("Damnit Anna") demanding that fans to sing along. Their prior lives as a Beatles cover band clearly paid off: they competently play sunny, upbeat pop like a more optimistic Walkmen. Although newer darker material sounds reminiscent of the Hello Sequence's last album. Nice.

North Carolina's Avett Brothers tore up the Sutro Stage, playing folkie bluegrass with the energy of a punk band.

New wavers Matt & Kim were like a shot of something strong, delivering high-energy hip-shakers to an unbelievably amped crowd.

Those two were just so adorably infectiously honestly excited to be there. Matt could hardly sing, he was smiling so hard.

The few people bobbing around the park on crutches seriously deserved medals of honor. This festival was outrageously spread out.

Calexico sounded kind of like an underwater mariachi band, and the crowd over at the Presidio stage appeared to be enjoying it.

The Dead Weather. This is Jack White doing what Jack White does best — swampy smoky, blues-rock, made even better by Alison Mosshart's snarly vocals.

Spotted at the Dead Weather: someone dressed in a head-to-toe Chewbacca costume. Right on. More fashion spotting — fringe boots, neon shades, plaid shirts, Sperry Top-Siders, shaggy haircuts, scarves. And iPhones.

Modest Mouse live shows are notoriously hit or miss, but today's show was generally solid.

Weeo got this crowd dancing with "Roses Are Free." Not like we needed more, but the group had the fog machine on high.

You wouldn't think Beth Dennison's acoustic mellowness would make for a particularly energetic show, but he got the crowd moving.

Okay, weather report...it went from merely crisp to legitimately cold to arctic. Yikes.

M.I.A.'s dancers were fucking amazing. She did a raucous, frenetic, completely perfect Beastie Boys cover — a nice tribute to the group, which, of course, couldn't be here. Her an oddly underwhelming rendition of "Paper Planes." She signed off by saying "San Francisco, stay high." On that note, there was a truly astonishing amount of weed being smoked here.

Band of Horses sounded both majestic and intimate. couples cuddled on the lawn as Ben Bridwell's voice soared across Lindley Meadow. When he sang, *The world is such a beautiful place* in "Ode to LRC," it was mighty tempting to lay back and succumb to the sentiment. The band agreed to an encore after much demand from the audience. They're so modest. "Can't promise it'll be good, but here's one more." The set was the perfect dinner-time soundtrack, and a welcome opportunity to chill out before Tenacious D. In the best way possible, Band of Horses truly is the Coldplay of indie rock.

Despite the mass migration to Polo Field for Tenacious D, there were zero bottlenecks. This thing was remarkably well thought-out.

Tenacious D was obviously a bit of a wild card, but people seemed to be genuinely excited for them. Kyle Gass of Tenacious D revealed he grew up in Walnut Creek, to half-laughter, half-applause. Jack Black name-dropped DVC to further applause. Their skit was laced with comedic skits, which made their music more enjoyable than it might otherwise have been. They featured an acrobatic Jack Black body-double and a dude named Lee dressed up as both Metal (a metal robot) and the Dark Lord himself. Musical highlights included "Tribute" (a tribute to the greatest song in the world, which Kyle and Jack wrote but forgot to write down) and the closing *Tannery* medley featuring four songs from the Who's classic rock opera. Before leaving the stage, Jack stripped off his shirt and then his jeans and threw them both into the crowd, strutting off the stage in a pair of red boxer briefs. ●



Jamie Noa

Fergie got the crowd moving with "My Humps."

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Jucifer — Brandon Wall

TURN ON THE JUICE AND CUT LOOSE

Jucifer only plays its darkest, heaviest, slowest, fastest, or noisiest material live.

by Buck Schwab

Jucifer's use of extremes is inherent to its whole, as if its music were a pulsating organism. The duo's vast arsenal of differing styles bends and winds through a giant (of bipolar emotions to create music with the elegance and grace despair, its images of gloom and darkness. Jucifer makes depression beautiful

Major stylistic shifts are abound in just about all of this two-piece set's recordings. The music suddenly shifts from the calm and free-flowing melody of shoegaze to the harsh brutality of noise or metal. But it always feels as if this dynamism has a rationale.

"We use the yell on purpose when we use it " said vocalist and guitarist Amber Valentine. "That moment when the music shifts unexpectedly and violently is a part of the composition, part of the experience, and comprehensive — even if it's only subconscious — of what the music is about."

The point of the band's musical palette is to draw listeners into its stories said Valentine. A sense of ornate movement combined with the heart crying feeling of seeing a torchlight in an ominous night is apparent in Jucifer's new album *Lustrichienne* an album based on the French Revolution. The concept album is about the plight of the Austrian-born French queen Marie Antoinette.. who was executed during the uprising.

The storytelling is intrinsic to any Jucifer recording. "We're recording albums as whole pieces of music not just sticking songs together that we think people might like " said Valentine, who along with her husband, drummer Ed Livengood, creates albums that have a sense of structure "Hell sometimes we put in songs that we expect people to hate! But, if we feel like they're important to the story and the flow, they're going on the record."

Valentine says Jucifer's approach has not changed much in its sixteen years of existence. "We've always been unsane enough to do things our own way, and we've managed to stay away from labels that get too much of a dumper on us," she said. Jucifer had its first 7 inch and LP on the fan record label Crack Rock, and after later moving over to the reborn Caprecorn label, which reissued that first LP, it is currently on Relapse records. "We never made any major compromises artistically. " Valentine said.

The duo has proven to be a pioneer in another realm, too. A number of similar two person bands have sprung up since Jucifer's inception nets like Japanther No Age, or Impandemics. "We showed venues and record labels and radio that a two-piece band was viable," Valentine said. "We took the heat for supposedly being a gimmick, on that real gimmicks could happen ... It can be really frustrating when people who don't know our history approach us as if we're brand new — And I can't wait until they start assuming our wall of sound is a copy of some band that started in 2006, or something. It is going to happen too."

However Valentine sees an upside to that. "The silver lining, though, is that we are constantly required to be better than our surface qualities ... Remaining underground while others mainstream got by on one of those surface novelties means that we're going to be continuing on what actually counts — making music."

Asked how the vast number of styles translates live, Valentine said she knows what gets the crowd pumped. "Our live show has always focused on our darkest, heaviest, or slowest fastest noisiest stuff. It's just the stuff that is good to play. "

This sense of urgency is intended, she said. "We knew that we wanted to fit paint headbanging, and hash around during shows. We as music fans totally prefer shows where mosh pits are appropriate to ones where the audience just watches. ... We've never made a record without at least a few songs that'll translate to that, to the tradition of a metal show or an old-school hardcore show."

Show Details:
Jucifer will play at Uptown (1928 Telegraph Ave Oakland) on Sept. 5 8 p.m $10 Uptownoakland.com

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American Steel

Dear Friends and Gentle Hearts

After a five-year reincarnation as indie rock band Communiqué, the four members of American Steel returned to the studio two years ago as their punk rock selves. *Dear Friends and Gentle Hearts* the second release since the "reunion," shows off the band's versatility and musicianship more so than earlier recordings. Following up 2007's very punky *Destroy Their Future*, this one oscillates between a bit from some of the straight up punk in favor of some slightly poppier, more dance-able rock, as it to make peace between the current band and its alter ego.



The first track, "Emergency House Party," is one of the best dancing songs; upbeat with an addictive guitar riff and an awesome sing along chorus (*Everything will be alright/if only for tonight*). Other highlights include the darker, heavier "Safe and Sound," a story of paranoia, and the catchy, singable title track. Between Rory Henderson's just harsh-enough vocals, plenty of catchy guitar riffs and groovin' bass lines, *Dear Friends and Gentle Hearts* could draw in new fans of the indie/dance persuasion. In fact the most typically punk, super-sped-up "Where You Want To Be" is the least musically exciting track on the album. Following that is the sharply contrasting, breakup anthem "Finally Alone" full of delightfully tortured vocal lines, bittersweet lyrics, and even sentimental potential.

Overall this album is particularly *fun* compared to other things American Steel has released: the danceable beats and screamable choruses make you desperate to see them play in person. (Fat Wreck Chords)

— Catherine Plato

The Minus 5

Killingsworth

Some bands are essentially associations or collectives built around the lead of one or two players. Steely Dan is one; the Minus 5 is another. The latter act's principals are Scott McCaughey (Young Fresh Fellows) and Peter Buck (REM) accompanied this time round by a troupe, including members of the Decemberists, Norfolk & Western, Mendoza Line and the Posies. This lot brings McCaughey's sardonic story-songs to life with their confidence, and eccentricities. There's little of the droll power pop of the Fellows—the ambiance is closer to the finely wrought folk rock and country flavored fill of *Younger Than Yesterday*/*Notorious Byrd Brothers*-era Byrds. Bonnie Prince Billy and Beachwood Sparks.

McCaughey's reassuring, kindhearted singing evokes late-1960s Ray Davies of the Kinks. He even writes songs like him, although McCaughey doesn't "crib." *Killingsworth* is full of vignettes rife with glowing yet plainspoken but detailed and trenchant observations borne upon low key, captivating, rays on bodies. The winsome, tragicomic "Big Beat Up Moon" is an overview of a neighborhood parked with people dis-united by loneliness. "I Would Rather Sacrifice You" is a facetiously stirring country gospel song about a pious Christian soldier devoted to saving the world and killing anyone that gets in the way (*I spread the gospel with my gun*). *Killingsworth* is an album to unify two (or more) generations of rockers — get a copy for your friend enamored of Wilco or that parent or sibling who still listens to the Band and Randy Newman. (Yep Roc)

— Mark Kurseman



8 Legged Monster

Vol. 2

You don't hear many multi horn jazz bands these days. They're challenging, unprofitable and a bit of an anachronism. Yet some musicians remain enamored of the old big-band style. Lead guitarist Mike Irwin Johnson is one such character. Classically trained, he's been a workhorse in the jazz scene for roughly a decade. Two years ago Johnson got inspired to write arrangements for a band with four horns and a four man rhythm section which he called 8 Legged Monster. (He's now expanded it to include six horns and touted his piano player for vocalist Karina Denike.) It's not a heavyweights — among them trumpeter Mike Olmos, trombonist Danny Grewen, reeds player Rob Barnes, drummer Joe Sawyer and the ravishing Denike, who's best known for singing in San Francisco ska band Dance Hall Crashers. Each band member has star power in his own right and each contributes a unique personal history to 8 Legged Monster. The result is exciting.

Johnson makes no pretension of packaging 8 Legged Monster for a modern audience. Instead he highlights the band's roots, even to the extent of designing the CD jacket for *Vol. 2* to resemble an old record jacket. *Vol. 2* includes only two standards, "Saturn" (arranged to sound a lot like Sun Ra's early recordings of the tune) and "Mardi Indigo." Otherwise, it's all Johnson originals — but you wouldn't know that without reading the liner notes since his music is so steeped in older swing and bebop traditions. Johnson typically writes with specific players in mind. "Olmos Def" features fat sounds and technical bravado from Olmos, while the lovely "Goodbye" shows Denike at her most vulnerable.



To be so grounded in tradition and yet so attractive to your band members is quite difficult. But Johnson pulls off 8 Legged Monster with flair. (Pursuance Records)

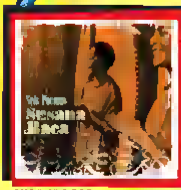
— Rachel Swan

8 Legged Monster plays Wed. Sept. 2 at San Francisco Yoshi's (1300 Fillmore). 8 p.m. $10-$14. 8LeggedMonster.com

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BEATLES DAY AT AMOEBA!!! WEDNESDAY 9/09/09

9AM - Trivia - Giveaways - Beatles Look-Alikes Contest!!

Visit Amoeba.com for the full schedule of events!

Pre-order the Beatles Remasters! (If for big one on Amoeba.com)

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LIVE SHOWS CALENDAR

All shows are free & all ages welcome!
Check Amoeba.com for complete listings

SAN FRANCISCO!

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 3 - 6PM
GEORGIA ANNE MULDROW & DUDLEY PERKINS
Los Angeles dynamic duo Georgia Anne Muldrow & Dudley Perkins (a.k.a. Calif$) present a spellbinding mixtape of boogie, hip-hop & soul. Perkins' debut album *Message Oral Bones* and Muldrow's latest album *Olmecha Da Feesh* are both instant classics. Get your copies now & be the first to hear excerpts, B-sides and collaborations.

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 10 - 6PM
VIVIAN GIRLS
Swirling reverb-laden Brooklynites the Vivian Girls' sophomore album *Everything Goes Terribly* hits the heavens on May 19th on Frenchkiss. Before the gig they'll appear in-store! Until then, let Cassie & Co. whet your appetite at Amoeba Hollywood that Thursday. Show at The Fonda on 5/19!

TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 15 - 6PM
GIRLS

BERKELEY!

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 17 - 6PM
AMOEBA HOME GROWN PRESENTS: DAMON & THE HEATHENS
Damon & the Heathens are a six piece punk band hailed from Redwood city combine the influence of Neil Hamburger, Steve Albini & garage rock music. Jazz & punk is rock n roll & they are the Mongolian air horn-backing Jackson 5. They are considered by their fans to be a 5 right sound

NEW HOME BOUND SHOW
Sign up for our newsletter on Amoeba.com & receive a NEW HOME BOUND MIX CD FREE with the purchase of $25.00 or more. Plus, be first to get info on special deals, contests, events, in-store performances & free downloads. E-mails, much sweeter than snail mail! (Offer expires and valid at any Amoeba store or Amoeba.com)

CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Appaloosa Saddle Rock, 9 pm, $5
Sleeping Beauties plus dance hostess w/ Phillip Garrison at 8 p.m. Mountain, 8:30 pm, $10
Strawberry Slim Fall Festival w/ Steve Alvin & the Guilty Women, Rodney Crowell, the Bud McCoury Band, Lost Alabamans, Kaiser, Sherry & Bessie Boerboom, 8 acoustic, Stamp Mather, $10 pre, $15 door, Sunday 3pm weekend passes $190-$200

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Pamelos w/ Cameron Ernst, Kind Elder, 21 Grand Gallery, Pan Harmonia Browne, 4:30 pm, $6-$10

Gospel & Soul

The Allied Boys of Brothers Yoshi's, 8 pm, $26

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Axel Theil's Jazz Spektakulärmeister 8:30 pm, free
Colonel Abrams-Wilson Yoshi's, 9:30 pm, $10
Jazz Mind swing jam Kung Yen Chinese Restaurant, 6:30-9 pm, free
Live Jazz soloist artists, La Boca de Cafe, 7 pm, free
Tom Ramos cocoa jazz w/ guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 pm, free
Skip Henderson feat Starburst Room Oyster Bar & Restaurant, 8 pm, free
Thursday Night Live rotating sax Rasta Zion's Trattoria, 8:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Acoustic Jesse Night featuring Monroe the keyboard thin & Black Tree 5:24 cabaret 7 pm $5
East Bay Psycho-Fest 2009 featuring Steve Roll, The Chem Dogs, Thee Merry Widows, Bluetrendia, Rat 5 more Uptown, 8 pm, $12
Free Bluegrass Rossmoor Mountain Restaurant, 6-8 pm, free
Meltdown featuring Gene Hughes, plus Feldmen Sirens, Starry Plough, 9 pm, $10
Son of Ace w/ Grace & Revive Bad Designs, Slack Club, 9 pm, $5
Stormy Love Mountain Grocery 7:30 pm, 510-653-3535
The Spazmatics Rush Rush Sports Bar, 10 pm, free
Virtuoso Rossmoor Saloon, 8 pm, free
Walking Quartet Kudos Saddle Rock, 6:30-8 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Thursday Night Live live music every week, Shellmont Nightclub 7 pm, $5-$12
Unplugged Fat R&B, soul, & jazz showcase, plus Dub after 11 p.m, Club Anton, 8 pm, $10-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Conscious Souls Aura, 9:30 pm, free
Salsa Night w/ Eddie L, plus Steve Isaacs, Vivian's Bar & Grill, 6 pm, $20
King's Night all-star blues jam, Slug & Tavern 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Dave Rawlins w/ the Fine Ice Boys, Slim's, 8:30 pm $15
King's Night all-star blues jam, Slug & Tavern 8 pm, free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

The Nels Evan Singers w/ Ava Roundup Cafe du Nord 11 pm, $14

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Steve Pemberton Babylon cabaret revue and spoof of pop-culture figures on which Steve Wildz travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$27
Sunday Blues San Francisco-based blues performers live jam and blues, Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10
Uptown Jazz Blues The Music Store, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The Beatles w/ Steve Isaacs cabaret Real Deal Lounge 8 pm $6-$10
Dave Kaman w/ Kali Hamilton Group, Conspiracy of Venus, Palomino Stage, 8 pm, $10
Elizabeth Gladden w/ Serena Williams, Wally, & the Welcome Wave Hotel Utah, 7:30 pm, $6
Flamboyan w/ guest DJ Magnetism 360 Bryan 10 pm, $13-$20

Break 'n' Heal with Sascha Johnny Foley's Irish Bistro, 9:30 pm, free
Sisters of Suzanne CD Rainbow Fighting the Vision Records or Fury Room bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $8
The Unsupervised Melting Potato Benito B Rosina & 11 36 pm $15

Soul, Funk, R&B

Burn Quartermain Casbah, 9 pm, $7
Eric Reiner Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $25
Ellen Reid & Erykah Badu w/ Jay Electronica, Opera Symphony Hall, 7 pm, $30-$50, $80-$90

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Tres & Los Niños Mambo 11:30 pm, free
Romance Thursdays Cantina Zarbuche presents music & theme w/ bellydancer Gumarosa-performers, Pacific Restaurant, 8:30 pm, $20

FRIDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Appaloosa Saddle Rock, 9 pm, $5
Girls' Blues Leader w/ Ivy Bread Burgess Trio Cattle Treats 8:30 pm free
I Like My Blues Hard 9 pm w/ Virgin, Sharon Revenue & the Blue Beat Revolver Bike ride from Speed Plaza at 8 p.m, Maquiladora, 9 pm, $6, 4 a.m. $10
Imperial Hall Improv, 8:30 pm, $20
Sunshine Blanket featuring Steve Isaac Starry Plough, 9 pm, $10
Appaloosa Music Fall Festival w/ Brent Allen & the Guilty Women, Bellevue Crowell, the Bud McCoury Band, Lost Mountains, Kaiser, Sherry & Bessie Boerboom, 8 acoustic, Stamp Mather, 11:30 pm, $20, children $20, Brothers Stamp $190-$200

Gospel & Vocal

The Allied Boys of Alabama Yoshi's, 8 pm, $35

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Shop Samson w/ Mosher & Smith, the Shamblers, Amanda's, 9:41 pm, $8
Pixel Friday Parties burlesque night, plus Rhapsody Event Space Club, 9 pm, free
Tom Ramos cocoa jazz w/ guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Beryl Bliss & Dave Sinco Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm $49.50-$79.50
Rossmoor Saloon Rossmoor Saloon, 8 pm, free
Embrace 924 Gilman 8 pm, $6

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at
EastBayExpress.com
or m.EastBayExpress.com

Mew w/ Funeral Party, Idlewild 9 pm, $18
Public Eye Lions Waterside Park, 7-8:30 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Urban Bone Battle of the Boy & MC Drama Premiere Metro Downgrounds, 8 pm, TBA
Joey Kennedy 33 Revolutions Robots Shop & Cafe 7:30 pm, free
Mac Dre, Keak Da Sneak, & Jay Electronica Paramount Theatre 7:30 pm, $39.50-$89.50
Sam Harris w/ Steve Seren, DJ Apollo Shattuck Blow Low, 8 pm, $15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Kenneth Parker live Romance guitar & Brighid on Solano, 7:30 pm free
La Gran Noche de la Salsa y Merengue w/ Marcelo Lezcano, Guido "Yuma" Mesa-Bains & Jose Posadas Hernandez, La Perla Tamales Center, 8:30 pm, $15-$18

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Ivo Watts Pandeo w/ guest, Hotel Utah 9 pm, $12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Sammy Michael Babylon cabaret revue that spoof of pop-culture figures on which Steve Wildz travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $18 $27
The Shrung Shave Quartet Cafe, 10 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Blanket Boy w/ Blue Veins, Livet, Bell'Ami, Cafe du Nord 8:30 pm, $10-$12
Boom Horse w/ Green & Watts Sea of Air The Knockout 8 pm, $7
Fantail Seamonsmith w/ the Color Turning, Hanners & Fencing Figures, Rad Bowl Lounge, 21 up, $8-$10
Gimmick w/ Haven, Bonus Main Lineup, & DJ Rob Music Day Parkside, 9 pm, $10
The Hamilton Brothers w/ Dr. Ivin, The Hagerty Ballroom, 9 pm, $499-$9 $80
Spasmodics Shorty w/ Kelvin Williams, The Absolut Party, Absolut Tavern, 9-10 pm, $0
Steve Lieb w/ Bailiff Still Valentine, Annie's Social Club 8 pm, $12
Steve Maunglas featuring Taylor Penrose James Pa, Adam Schlesinger, & Rob E. Calico, plus Magic Christian, Great American Music Hall 8 pm, $10
Vinyl Sessions Peyton Blood-Angels, the Chop, Bimbos of the Hill 8 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Bedfriend Split w/ Overview Recordsmakers, Jeffmen MC, Hopes Spaghetti, DJ Ark J, & host Lucky I Am, Slim's, 8 pm, $14
Chris Rob Rewards & Mercy 8-9 10 pm, $20
Eric Reiner Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $35
Gary Peterson feat **The Blind Shakers** w/ Jarhead Phatts, Ind, & Miss Hamilton Tiffin Bazaar 10 pm, $15-$12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Tropic Nights Buena Vista-style Latin dancing w/ live cabaret Subway & Eddy Blues Parlor Performance, 8:30 pm, $13 $8

SATURDAY 5

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Appaloosa Saddle Rock, 10 am, $3
Appaloosa Blues Band Armando's, 4:11 pm, $8
Bethel's Blues Blues Weekend Meetings & the Tight Fit Blues Band Everett & Jones Barbeque 8 pm, free
Strawberry Slim's Fall Festival w/ Brent Allen & the Guilty Women, Rodney Crowell, the Bud McCoury Blues Lost Weekend Kaiser, Sherry & Bessie Boerboom & cross, Stamp Mather 11:30 pm, $20, children $20, weekend passes $190-$200

PICKS

Sun Jams

Ha-zin, a recognizable voice will get you pretty far in hip-hop, which is partly about lyricism, but largely about persona and delivery. Bi-Filimore rapper **Sun Quinn** has it. Laid-bar flows, incredible command of the rhythm, a sense of humor obeying personal anecdotes, and a raspy, almost childish voice. As a result, he's had an impressive eight-year career in the Bay Area, supplemented by a stable discography. His best records mix radio-ready hits with songs that could almost be characterized as "backpacker." Quinn makes a rare appearance at Berkeley's **Shattuck Down Low** (2284 Shattuck Ave.) on Friday, Sept. 4, alongside dancehall artist **Rankin Scroo**. The event cops off with sets by **DJ Apollo**, a founding member of the city's San Francisco crew Triple Threat DJs. 9 p.m., $15. ShattuckDownLow.com. — *Rachel Swan*

Rankin Scroo

Speaking of **Rankin Scroo**, he has been a presence on the Bay Area reggae, world music, and hip-hop scene since the 1980s, when the duo of Rankin Scroo & Ginger electrified audiences with their jaun style of dancehall music. In the last few years, Scroo has developed his own brand of urban reggae, blending hip-hop and roots music with the positive messages that have

al [illegible] band Overtone. Elaborated with [illegible] Sheet, and Memo [illegible] evolved Frankie Paul and Beenie Man on at his Crucial Vault Studio in Oakland. Forever adverts, Scroo's fun gigs can jump between soca lovers rock, R&B and smoking roots reggae. **Rankin Scroo** opens for rapper Sun Quinn at **Shattuck Down Low** in Berkeley on Friday, Sept. 4, 9:00 p.m. $15. ShattuckDownLow.com. — *J. Poet*

John Legend

Not unlike good friend and roommate Kanye West, **John Legend** had become a pop, rhythm-and-soul — urgent, songwriter, producer and label owner. Creative collaborations have become a mainstay for Legend, whether it's him participating in a Will.I.Am-produced video for Barack Obama last year or working with artists ranging from rappers Wale to Rick Ross and T.I. to bona fide legend Sergio Mendes. The Ohio native has brought this musical outlet on the touring trail when it comes to the opening acts he's lined out on the road with him. And while the balladeer's own brand of Earth-Shaker featured some intriguing but nonetheless safe tinkering, on this string of musical dates he's a managerial-sense sense of that album's more awkward moments in his set stage duets with India.Arie on "Good Morning" and younger brother Vaughn Anthony on "In Your Shoes." John Legend will be showcasing his own brand of Quiet Storm on Sunday, Sept. 6, at the **Greek Theatre** (Gayley Rd. at Hearst Ave. Berkeley). 7:30 p.m., $39.50–$89.50. APECconcerts.com. — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Classical Revolution

The [illegible] Classical Revolution is happening in San Francisco this week. The chamber ensemble, which draws its ever-changing membership from organizations as excellent and diverse as the San Francisco Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and top conservatory classes, is the resident ensemble of the Red Poppy Art House in the Mission. With its goal of supplanting classical music's audience by performing in bars, cafes, art galleries, and other accessible venues, Classical Revolution chapters currently exist in Portland, Reno, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and, of course, San Francisco. At **Red Poppy Art House** (3695 [illegible] 8th St. San Francisco) Thursday, Sept. 3, 8 p.m., free. 415-865-9402. — *Jessica Pinter-Serina*

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Will At Dusk Saddle Rock, 7:30 pm, $5

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jacobs w/ the Feminine Fox Sassy Uptown, 8 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Cheltenham w/ **Dopes** Uptown Hip Hop Express, 8 pm, $10

Crissy Trotta Sunnyside, 9 pm, free

Paul Dibble Fenster Jazz w/ guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Goodwin w/ Headslide, the Seasons, Ordinaryside, Scary Plough, 9 pm, $6

Sharp Dad & John Jackson Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $48.96-$79.56

Los Amigos Invisibles w/ **Nicole McKay** Rickett's, 8:30 pm, free

Last Call Vinnie's Bar & Grill, 9:30 pm, free

Los Amigos Invisibles at **La Peña** Saturday morning children's show, free music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 am, $5 kids $8

Blue Mayo for **Tea Party** w/ Corrupted SF, Soundtribe, & 7 Year Old Hard Rat, Hyena Club, 9 pm, $5

Subterranean Blanket w/ Whaley, Telltale Start Like an Ornament, & Hyena, 924 Gilman, 8 pm, $6

Stockholm Syndrome w/ Blood Uptown, 9 pm, $23-$25

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Kris Bacon Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $28-$38

Chinatown Battle of the Bay 5 MC Battle, Oakland Hyena Speakeasy, 7 & 9 pm, TBA

Crown Folk Entertainment Kimball's Carmen, 8 pm, free

P.S. 1 Standard of Performance 30 Seventeens Present Sleep & Cake, 9:30 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Hyena Paul & West Bottom Blunder, Band plus Afrikan dance lesson at 8 p.m. Ashkenaz, 9:30 pm, $13 students $10

Dalton Paul w/ Cumbancha's "Ron Paul Project" La Taza de Cafe, 7:30 pm, free

The Reggae Night w/ rotating live bands, Sweet Fingers, 8 pm, free

Hyena Afrikan Poot Tot, 9:30 pm, $6

Bahama Kalaso w/ DJ Kramer, Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $10, $5 students

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Mattkaye & Blanket Italian folk music w/ Silver Maramo, Cafe Monte, 12:30 am-12:15 pm, free

Rick Estrin & the Nightcats Blanket & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $20

The White Blanket w/ guest, Hyena Utah, 9 pm, $12

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Van Dopes w/ Cat Mcatzer, Great Amerikan Music Hall, 9 pm, $25

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $95-$77

Samuel Seal Ruggabib Saloon, 9-11 pm, free

The Four Freshmen Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm $18-$28, Also, matinee $5

Teresa Genevieve & Her Little Big Hyena Rose Room, 10:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The B-Sides w/ the Sweet Revenge, Smokestamped, & Ad Nine Blunder, Red Devil Lounge, 8 pm, $7-$10

Fast Times With covers, Maggie McGarry's, 9 pm, free

Rock & Roll Happy Hour Hour w/ local bands, Thee Parkside, 3-6 pm, free

Magic Johnson Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $10

Red Vega Dirty Sweet, Gringo Star, free from off the hill, 10 pm, $10

Who Knew w/ Tombstone, Bottom feet, Benjamin Boxed, & El Grande, Slim's, 8 pm, $20

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Saturday Night Soul Party Rib Rod Hyena, Paul Paul & Paulgrin Blunder, Elbo Room, 10 pm, $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Gaaaaaa Salsa Jaga w/ Pamela Sonda, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 1-3 pm, free

Hyena Shepherd Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 pm, $20-$25

SUNDAY 6

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged Eve Monsees, Americana, & Hal-Rew w/ rotating artists, Jupiter, 5 pm, free

Strawberry Music Fall Festival w/ Hyena Alan & the Guilty Women, Rodney Crowell, the Earl McCrary Band, Lost Weekend, Kane, Bruce & Kaplan, Beerdeer, & more Camp Meeker, 2 pm, $60 children $30, Seasons passes $100-$200

THURSDAY
Temple of Boom with Phil Free 10pm

FRIDAY
Happy hours with golden ground 4-10pm
Upgrade with dj eddy bunker 10pm

SATURDAY
warm-up with mystic jay Phobi and 7 10pm
meet boy honky tonk with dj ed ocasio 10pm

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THUR 9/4
JOSHI'Z 3
It as Came celebrate the 4th with one of the Bay Area most prominent music sins. Josh Marshall switches it around with his mixed ensemb e, a trio featuring David Es kinja... www.joshuamarshall.com
FRI 9/4
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8:00 This Pocket Trio is 5 professional jazz pla-ers who with 5 sings repertoire of jazz standards and Brazilian jazz. Those seasoned Berkeley-based musicians will be exploring and grooving the i way through standards originals and the occasiona pe-tune EVERY Saturday in September. www.myspace.com/pockettrio
SAT 9/5
SUN 9/6
Americana Unplugged
SAVANNAH BLU
5:00 They re sins of the more straight ahead California bands of the season. Gary Keys and company come-in town once again to give us a follow up session on how bluegrass re-sonnd North Bayyyys.
WED 9/9
ALEXIS HARTE
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The Chinese Pump Organ The Armando's, 3 pm $8
Ghirardelli Square & Mah La Jazz Ballroom, 7:30 pm $15
Ole Brazilian Jazz Quintet, Quintet & accompaniment jazz, Coffee Mill, 3:30 pm, free
Rock & Pop
Chris Isaak w/ Brian Setzer & Nashville Icons, Shoreline Amphitheatre 7 pm, $45.$275
Ladybug Picnic Sunny Sundays kids' show, Ashkenaz, 3-4:30 pm $6, kids $4
Stockholm Syndrome w/ guests, Uptown, 5 pm, $12-$25
Tyler Jakes w/ the 5th Wheel, Specs 5 Silhouette, Bonanza Saloon, 1 pm, $8 under 21 $10
Soul, Funk R&B & Hip-Hop
Eric Bennet Vishi's, 5 5 10 pm, 526-4000
John Legend w/ India.Arie, Vaughn Anthony, Greek Theatre 7:30 pm, $28.50-$69.50
World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton
Josh Saunders w/ Pete Memphis La Paella Cultural Center, 5 pm, $8

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Power Trouble 500 San Pablo Ave Berkeley. 510-528-5300
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Bash Bistro 1228 Pine St., Oakland. 510-558-3456.
Bash Asian 420 3rd St., Oakland. 510-463-1565.
Bare Betty 135 12th St., Oakland. 510-763-0404
Coffee Mill 3363 Pinnet Ave., Oakland. 510-405-4224
College Lane 509 Ferry St., Oakland. 925-228-3344
Space Lounge 5422 College Ave Oakland. 510-653-2003
Bank 510-419-2003
Bass & Bath Sports Bar 1524 Clair St Walnut Creek. 925-932-1331
Caglio Hall 2305 Alameda Ave. Alameda. 415-285-8800.
Cozy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-338-4911
Center 5 Jazz Restaurant 126 Broadway, Oakland. 5 0-663-2300
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way Berkeley. 510-848-3980
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway Oakland. 510-444-3566
Fox Oakland 1807 Telegraph Ave (btw 19th/20th) Oakland. 510-302-3300
Fuse Bar at Tarantino Inc Berkeley. 510 883 1700
Freight & Salvage 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761
Herb Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley. 510-642-0808.
Indian Alameda Isle 1400 Oakland St., Alameda. 510-865-9229.
Restaurant 2001 Oakland St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373.
Jazzin Community Center of the East Bay 3414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0030
Jolie s Creole Bistro 1233 Park St., Oakland. 510-865-2300
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave Berkeley. 510-843-8811
Kaufmann Lilly 1400 Shattuck St., Oakland. 510 284-8700
Kimball's Oakland 522 2nd St., Oakland. 510-444-0919
King Yale Chinese Restaurant 1089 Solano Ave Berkeley.
Kingston Lounge Lounge 3332 Broadway Ave Oakland. 510-465-5464.
Kingston's by Pinnet 2044 San Pablo Ave Albany. 510 525-5888.
Kitty's 5132 Shattuck Ave., Emeryville, 510-601-1000
La Pena Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave Berkeley. 510-849-2568
La Azora de Oro 3369 Grand Ave Oakland. 510-452-2313
Lake Merritt Oakland Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave Oakland. 510-465-4733
Lakeshore Church Baptist Church 3234 Lakeshore Ave Oakland. 510-893-2484
Lungo College Chinese 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3543
Last Wednesday Lounge 3320 Pinnet Ave Alameda. 510-523-4760
Lake s Oakland & Church 2221 Pinnet way, Oakland. 510-451-4817
Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland. 510-839-6380
9 pm, free
Ghirardelli w/ the Gaslamps, Rickshaw Stop, 1:30 pm 510-812
Soul, Funk R&B & Hip-Hop
Eric Lindell w/ Hillmore Blues, Plan 23 4 pm, $20
World, Latin Reggae & Reggaeton
Quiabard, Latinazion Latinazion Music and dance from the Middle East, Pako Pouliamenis, 8:30 pm, $10
Mambo Azul Cuba, 9 pm, $7
MONDAY
EAST BAY
Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret
Uptown, Quotas Nubian* live Telegraph w/ Nubian Nutritia Never Uptown, 5 pm, $8
Soul, Funk R&B & Hip-Hop
Eric Bennet Vishi's, 7 pm, 526-4000
World, Latin Reggae & Reggaeton
Ramel Blanchito w Giant Panda Guerrilla Dub Squad, Uptown, 9 pm, $10
SAN FRANCISCO
Blues, Folk & Country
The Belleville Outfit Hoshi's San Francisco 9 pm, $10
Oakland, Lounge 2800 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-2800.
Mambo Inn 6500 Oakland, San... Fruitvale. 510-569-5344
Oakland, Lounge 2800 12th St. Oakland. 510-238-7830
Oakland, Jazz Quartet 630 3rd St. Oakland. 510-763-1146.
SEATTLE Island 1000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121
Paramount Theatre 2025 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-465-6400
Peter's Restaurant 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. 925-284-117
Plantation Hotel 1650 Main St., Oakland, ten. 925-846-8186.
Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Portofessions Cove Oakland. 510-536-2908.
Rotary 835 12th St. Oakland. 510-451 2880
Rockridge Church 3553 Mt. Quandon Blvd Oakland. 925-284-4817
Ruby Room 2323 Broadway, Oakland. 510 444 1 24
Saddle Rock 4201 Bonanza Rd. Fremont, 510-979-9471
Oakland, Jazz Lounge 2294 Oakland, Ave Berkeley. 510-548-4444
Oakland Nightclub 7418 San Quentin Valley Blvd (btw 13th) San Oakland
Spiritual Center 2424 Lincoln Ave Alameda. 510 521-1400
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Ross and Way Berkeley. 510-848-5181
St. John's Presbyterian Church 1721 Cedar St. Berkeley. 510-845-6236
Stomp Center 3101 Shattuck Ave Berkeley. 510-848-7003
Aura 1625 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-8474
Uptown Nights 484 E. 14th St. San Leandro. 510-895-9400.
Ohanah 1924 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-4500
Velvet 3401 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland. 510-531 1021
The Vine Church 2272 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland. 510 452 4700.
Wood's Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Quandon St., Concord. 925-685 9515
Queen Victoria's Restaurant 6080 Arroyo Rd. Livermore. 925-548-2456.
Oakland, Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-4297
Inland Island Inn 8551 Telegraph Ave Oakland. 510-845-3820.
Rotary 5101 Intercontinen- West, Oakland. 510-338-5260
Zatherton's Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-9301
Zax s Fruitvale 542 Grand Ave Oakland. 510-836-9124.
Bank 510-419-2003
Bass & Bath Sports Bar 1524 Clair St Walnut Creek. 925-932-1331
Caglio Hall 2305 Alameda Ave. Alameda. 415-285-8800.
Cozy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-338-4911
Center 5 Jazz Restaurant 126 Broadway, Oakland. 5 0-663-2300
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way Berkeley. 510-848-3980
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway Oakland. 510-444-3566
Fox Oakland 1807 Telegraph Ave (btw 19th/20th) Oakland. 510-302-3300
Fuse Bar at Tarantino Inc Berkeley. 510 883 1700
Freight & Salvage 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761
Herb Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley. 510-642-0808.
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Rock & Pop
Midnight Shopping w/ Knight Lowery, the Cons, Nemiatch Tavern, 5 pm, $8
the Stranded w/ Floating Boat, Pins of Light, 5 Awful Rats, Annie's Social Zone 7 pm, $8
Barry Restaurant Johnny Foley's Irish House, 7 pm
Oakland, Lounge 2800 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-2800.
Mambo Inn 6500 Oakland, San... Fruitvale. 510-569-5344
Oakland, Jazz Quartet 630 3rd St. Oakland. 510-763-1146.
SEATTLE Island 1000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121
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Stomp Center 3101 Shattuck Ave Berkeley. 510-848-7003
Aura 1625 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-8474
Uptown Nights 484 E. 14th St. San Leandro. 510-895-9400.
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C&C

Regl Harvey Dubloggod Bily's Room 7:30 pm free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

CAO Big Band c. Kenny Washington, Jason Peach's, 4 & 10 pm, $10-$15

Rock & Pop

Dorks Johnny Foley's Irish House 9 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Mike Dow Pine Ale Hotel 8 pm, $10

TUESDAY 8

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Piano Night w/ Kenzone, Wendy's Bar & Grill 7:30-11 pm, free

Sugar Mine acoustic blues Rasta Tiki Bistro, 8-11 pm free

Tom Rigney & Hombone plus Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson 8 p.m. Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Avant-Garde Tuesdays artists TBA, Museum 4 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Angela Mastrantonio piano Room Compo de Gorge 6-8 pm free

Lani Kaahi Jazz Tea Room Cafe Trieste, 7 pm free

Ben Tibbetts Senior jazz w/ guest Mission singers, The Alley, 4 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Tea Bella Uptown, 9 pm, $45

Room Tone Yoshi's, 8 pm $18

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Laura Carbone & Jefferson Pruitt 1199 Haight 4 pm, 42

Martin Sexton Bimbo's 365 Club 8-11:30 pm, $20

Hermon Sean w/ Katie Knipper Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $8-$10

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Karl Blau w/ Mint Morgan Cabaret Fog, Mission's Cabaret, 4 pm, $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Stories on the Keys Clarion 4 pm, TBA

Byron Jazz Jam w/ the Alan Hoskins Trio Caldera Cocktails, 7:30-11:30 pm, free

Room Carney's Mission Jazz Project Yerba's San Francisco, 8 pm, 415-514

The Robert Stewart Experience Pier 23 4:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Black Flame w/ 36 Serpent Throne & Bl Ritt Metal, The Knockout, 30 pm, free

Dante Cook The Fillmore 4 pm, $25-30

Diego's Wednesday Park Chalet Brewery, 8:30 pm, free

Eric McFadden Duo Yoshi's San Francisco, 10 pm $10-$14

DL Sillas w/ Sean Garvey Bueno Residents Cafe du Nord 9:30 pm $44

Ben 'n' Rod with Friends Johnny Foley's Irish House 5:30 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Late Night Live Tuesdays: Hot Harlot Bimbo's San Francisco 9:30 pm-1:30 am, $5

WEDNESDAY 9

EAST BAY

Classical & Opera

Room Piano w/ Ilya Gluzberg & Cindy Cox, piano Herbst Hall noon, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Hustlentrepreneurs' 4 ½ What 8 0 Tour featuring Patrick Ruchen, Will Kennedy & Gary Meek, Yoshi's, 4 & 10 pm, 412-1000

Mission Lobo Jazz Band Dolores Park, 7-8 pm, free

Bud Hooks Phoenix pool w/ ghetto Mission singers, The Alley, 9 pm, free

Vocal Haven & Groovy Mission 70s Amelia Earhart Lounge 5 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Soulsavers w/ Mathieu Bogaert, Rockpool, Mission 9 pm, $15

Yeah Yeah Room Fox Theater 8 pm, $35-50

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Agent Blue Mad Dash Dance Lesson @ 9 p.m. Ashkenaz 4:30 pm $10

Mariachi plus Bhatia, texture, Mustanta Room Live 8 pm, 415 Mustanta 9th

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Earl Mission Dubloggod Mission & Room 8-11:30 pm, 415

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beverly Hofmann Babylon classical revue Bad spoof of pro-culture figures in which Snow White Meets Angela and the world in Beauty at Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, 375 $77

Bad Mathletic plus the Mission Mission Hop of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Gino Castaldo w/ the Pupperoids, Bids, Great Mathletic Music Bud 5 pm, 514-816

Mary the Fairness 9 pm, $45

Mirrorpolis w/ Jacopo, Cafe du Nuss 9:30 pm, $10

Mind for Livers Tour Bimbo's 365 Club 415-

Bimbo's Band Hoodwinks, Queen Sea Big Shark, Casino Fantom, & Hofmann Hall, Uptown at the Hill, 9 pm, 800-510

Gold Flames w/ Jake Long, Woodsworks, 1000 Room, 4 pm, $5

Vivian Girls Bi- Hofmann w/ the Bombs, Noe Valley Ministry, 8 pm, $15-$14

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Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074

El Mission 3100 16th St., 415-437-1554

El de 3158 Folsom St., 415-287-3325

1300 House 847 Valencia St., 415-553-1726

Elbo Room 1000 Geary Blvd., 415-561-1961

The Endup 401 6th St., 415-646-0999

The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000

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Jazz @ Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave. 415-291-8255

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Leonides Lounge 1700 Mission St., 415-864-5451

Madrona Lounge 500 Divisadero St. 415-241-0792

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DJ DANCE

THURSDAY 3

EAST BAY

Amour w/ DJs Jenn Wild & Dan Shattuck spinning Afro-Latin vibes, salsa & Jamendrah, La Taza de Cafe, 10 pm, $10 donation

Shattuck Soul Vibrator w/ DJs Dorian, Daniela, & guests spinning soulful house dance music & bumps from around the world, The Vibe Vibrator, 10 pm, free

Club Fame w/ Senses Real Scandalous, reggae & dancehall, Shadowcastle Restaurant, 10 pm, free

Undaga Night w/ DJ and VJ Jon G. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & live R.U. Vibin' Horse Inn, 9 pm, $5 (Standard Inn w/ valid ID)

Eastern Thursdays rotating DJs spinning reggae & world beat, Ase Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free

Broadcasting Berlin DJs Chief Boom & Astro Pen spin ethereal, lounging, nomadic, tribal & dancehall, Lake's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $15

DJ Addi spinning eclectic mix variety, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Jerry Rose spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ Trish spinning Swingin' Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free

Khamsat Yiddish Pop Funk Queen Jenna, DJ Kool Kyle spins reggae, funk hits, & more, Katy's, 10 pm-2 am, free

Officeshoes DJ Jasmine Flood spins jazz & R&B, Kingman's Lounge, 9 pm, free

Phat Thursdays every night w/ DJs Phat 1 spinning mash-ups, electro, hip-hop, & top 40, Kingman's Lounge, 10 pm, FREE

Preppy Rave w/ DJ Demerian spinning eclectic African salsa, rumba, Shattuck boogie down, & funk, Katy's, 7 pm, free

Rasa and Kaiser w/ DJ the Reverend Trinity Tango spinning sweet pop, punk, & glam, Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

RHP Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave dance hits, 9 pm, free

Tasty Queen night w/ DJ Mr. Jasmine spinning hip-hop & R&B, Bimbo's Bar & Lounge, 9 pm, $10

Xplosion of Queen w/ DJ Nasa Cat spinning hip-hop, R&B, Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

Thursday Throwdown w/ DJ Shut the Vinyl Anthologist and guests spinning hip-hop classics, 80s, flashbacks, Queen electric, funk, & post, Shattuck Hotel Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs Bobbi, spins Saturdays 9pm, & Melting Girl spins 80s & new wave Cat Club 9 pm, free Door 8:30 p.m., $6

Afrobloom w/ DJs Sabo, Pleasuremaker, Senor Oz & guests spinning Afro-tropi-samba-funk, Elbo Room, 10 pm, $6

Bhangin' in Black DJ Rasa Ali during Bhangra, The Knockout, 7:30-10 pm, free

Bodega Night DJs Bruno and Bad Jocelyn spin hip-hop, triphy, R&B & more The Cellar, 10 pm, free

DJs Shattuck & Lane spinning funky mixes & underground hip-hop, Deep Bar, 4 pm, free

Spicy Queen w/ DJ White Heat and Friends spinning spicy tunes, The Knockout, 10 pm, free

Night Clean DJs Boone King & Swagger spin booty bass, bass, rap, & electro, Shattuck Lounge, 9 pm, free

Queen rotating DJs The EmCee, 10 pm, $10

Rockerbox Thursdays light thirty-plus party w/ DJ Switch spinning R&B and funk, Avenue Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free

Tapha Tea Thursdays w/ Jah Warrior Wesley Hi-Fi Jah Tree one Trife, 9 Miller spinning reggae, Club 550, 9 pm-2 am, $5 free before 11 p.m. w/ RSVP

Unusual Beats DJ Isaac w/ DJs the Rooster, Beatpipe, EMK, & guests, plus Lounge Shattuck 8, Elmoon, 9 pm, $10

FRIDAY 4

EAST BAY

Flashback Fridays A-Ski Spair & Voodoo (the Oakland Raiders) spin old-school hip-hop and funk, Lake's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $15

Jenn Everyday DJ Jorge Calleja spins summer salsa merengue vibes, Spectrum pool & house floor & bar, 9 pm-2 am, $12

Queen Tropical Lounge DJ Sista Vita spins sexy Cuban music & Latin jams, La Taza de Cafe, 10 pm, free

Quiksonic DJ Joe Dyan spins funk, both, & tech, Easy Lounge, $5 pm, free

Retro-Active Resident Team 45rpm 80s pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Sultry Fridays DJ Lush & Lil Bliss spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 9 pm, $10

Wallpaper w/ Ralphbosch, Samadhya & Sea & Seaweed family, Uptown, 6 pm, free

SATURDAY 5

EAST BAY

All Productions & Stockpile DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop, Ironic, 10 pm, free

Club Smallpox DJs Jerry Rose & Soul Seekers spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop, Mezzanine & Vinetap, 9 pm, $20

Ignored Saturdays Southern hip-hop & house w/ residents, Until 12:00, $3-$5 pre-midnight, $5

OUR VIBES Saturdays w/ dance spins spinning reggae, dancehall, & lounge, The Avenue, 9 pm, free

Ms Jon Quinn Radio 1c, pm-2 am, free

East Bay Honky-Tonk DJ Sid Shakes spins House country bluegrass, alt country, honky-tonk, blues, & more, Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

Freaky-Deaky DJ Mona and guests spin hip-hop & 4x4 mash-ups, and rock, College Lane, 9 pm, free

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ mE, White House Inn, 9 pm, $5

La Luna Azul Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, merengue, & cumbia, Bus Bla-go-vegetos Room & Bar, 6 pm, $12

Magic Bus Voodoo DJ Rasan, & guests Shub getta-surfing extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Pop History 101 DJs spin pop hits from the Stooges to Michael Jackson, Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

Say It Loud w/ DJs Mike Kane & Spank, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

Summer Saturdays DJ Junior & guests spin reggaeton, future funk, retro beat, & dancehall, Lake's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, $10

Thursday w/ DJ Nasa Cat spinning hip-hop, 4x4s, Missouri Lounge, 9:30 pm, free

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Bohemia w/ DJs Bohemia & Saturdays spinning hip-hop, R&B & alt-school, Jelly's Bar 56 pm, Door 9:30 p.m., $5

Boys & Girls w/ DJs Dreamsplosion, DJ Black, Hungry & Spike Interfat spinning international soul, soulful House & soul bassics, Triple Crown, 9 pm, $5

Club Survivors w/ DJ Swag spinning the hottest Bay Area club hits, spins 'n, 10 pm, free before 11 p.m. with bounce

Club Kingdom w/ resident DJs spinning reggae & R&B, Per 23 & 24th #D

DJ Club the Song Bar, 9 pm, free

DJ Eric Lara Levende Voodoo 7-10 pm, free

DJ Superfriend w/ DJs DJ Kool Kyle & Reggie Mac spinning classics, reggaeton, spoken wordcore, and world dance-pop, Make-Out Room, $10 pm, $5

Element Saturdays w/ DJ Chris Grebb spinning hip-hop, rock, & mashups, Element Lounge, 9 pm, $5

Family Vacation Dan Bongo Lazaro & Rafael Duque, 10 pm, $5

Gestral Gestalt techno & Rattlebeach, w/ Heads & Hands Sammy D, Craig Kanz, Alex Mac spinning techno, eclectic, Monarch, The Cellar, 10 pm, free Room 11 p.m. $10

Here Were City 80s dance party, DNA Lounge, 9 pm, $7 before 10 p.m., $12

Rebel Girl Disco party for girls, the and the Bimbos, w/ DJ Christ G-A guests spinning electro, indie rock, hip-hop, & 80s, Rockstar Stop, $5 pm, $7

Sabotage DJs spinning Lounge and club hits, The Cellar, 9 pm, free Room 11 p.m. $10-$20

Still Rollin' R'dom 'n' Isaac party with DJ Kaiz Aka, 9 pm, free

Tease Lounge DJs spinning smooth hip-hop, urban Top 40, & funky House Cats Kat, 10 pm, $20

Temptation! The Lifestyle of Love Sensual Gala w/ DJs Eddie Chan, Hawthorne, Mezzanine, 10 pm, $15-$25

SUNDAY 6

SAN FRANCISCO

the Sanctum w/ DJ Say Shattuck the Twister, & guests spinning dark, retro, & dancehall classics, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $5

TUESDAY 8

EAST BAY

DJ Vibrator Jamal Kingman's Lucky Lounge 9 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 9

EAST BAY

Vibrator Pop Queen w/ DJs Rosen, Ani, Sabrina Marian, Jamal Rader, and Jacques spinning house and electronica, Queen on Telegraph, 9 pm, $5

Bohemian Saturdays DJ Cadence & rotating guests spin salsa, samba, merengue, reggaeton, & hip-hop, plus Latino Queen Jasmine at 9 p.m., Lake's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Eastern spice tease, ghetto beats The Knockout, 6-9 pm, free

Today's Station DJ Toby Clark spins House Music, 9 noon, Skip's Tavern, 6-11:30 pm, free

PICK

Geek Tapes: nt Art Tech

Whether it's a wave shrimping Rock Rock, more than an old band, or the fog for a three-day festival to celebrate the intersection of art and technol sy Mission experimental art institution The Lab hosts its first-ever nerds-day festival, called **art.tech**, which will feature more than 40 artists, as well as workshops, demos, and lectures. Expect to be able to build your own video-game controller and make instruments from scratch, as well as iber experiments in sonic sculpture, mixed reality tangible interfaces, robotics, experimental music, activated objects and physical computing. Friday headliner Meredith Drum bio-Saturday, Geek Tapes, Sunday Da vid Wilson. At **The Lab**, 2948 16th St., Friday September 4 through Sunday September 6. $35 three-day pass/$12-$15 a day. TheLab.sg. — *Daniel Sincere*

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Tech Talk

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Janus Networks

Long Term Challenges Ahead for Broadband Technologies

by Mielle Sullivan, Janus Networks

As consumer demand for broadband Internet has grown exponentially, a few different technologies have risen up to meet the need. Each is three technologies has likely own unique set of advantages and challenges. Consequently, there is no all-encompassing solution for the future of broadband.

Let's examine been to the current technologies:

VDSL2—Very High Speed Digital Subscriber Line 2. The newest and most advanced standard of DSL broadband over the-wire communications. The standard supports wide-scale "Triple Play" service such as voice, video, data, high definition television (HDTV) and interactive gaming. It uses existing copper phone wires to make the connection. The supporters of this technology are AT&T with its U verse offering and Qwest.

Advantages: Because it uses existing copper telephone lines as the back bone of the infrastructure, there less to build out than the other technologies.

Challenges: In terms hi reliability, VDSL2 is sometimes more haphazard than to DOCSYS and FIOS, in part because it exam on sites infrastructure. Also, VDSL2 speeds degrade over long distances.

In order to make the system viable AT&T has created a hybrid of fiber optics and copper wires for it's U-verse offering. The company uses a fiber optic cable connection to a city, then copper lines within a city. However, the hybrid system relies on huge cabinet-like hubs to be installed underground in been city. AT&T has had to battle officials over been in many cities for permition to install cable hubs. Stalled negotiations have limited deployment.

FIOS—Fiber optic communications network and technology designed for bundled communication services including internet telephone and television. Fiber optics are the newest technology and infrastructure, offering the highest potential speeds with the less amount to loss.

Challenges: When FIOS enters any new territory, the entire infrastructure needs to be built and from scratch.

Verizon is the only company currently building out its own all fiber optic network (FIOS), in most densely populated areas, the company must cable cables under often-dressing city structures and negotiate with apartment building owners individually making implementation very slow in old cities.

DOCSIS 3—the cable in Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification. DOCSIS is a standard that allows high speed cost transfer over existing cable television system.

Advantages: DOCSIS uses existing cable infrastructure, so there is not nearly as much to build out as FIOS. This system also has less speed loss over distance than VDSL2

Disadvantages: Ultimately, DOCSIS is inferior to FIOS for speed potential. Currently, FIOS does not meet to special near capacity to be competitive. As the market demands higher speeds, DOCSIS may not compete with FIOS. Also, despite having much to the existing infrastructure, there are still growing pains associated with the DOCSIS. Providers like Comcast and Cox have been unable to keep up with demand, slowing installations and causing services outages in some areas.

The challenges in implementing cable technologies are likely to continue for years. Ironically, densely populated cities and very remote sparsely populate areas similar cost to benefit challenge for installation. The future is likely to be patchwork of all three technologies depending on different installation challenges in been area. Cities may need to depend on VDSL and DOCSIS for several years, wh le newer suburban developments in some cities, will have FIOS. Very remote areas may rely on hmsatsnet built out by a local Wade which would then connect to users wirelessly. Eventually, Verizon may be able build out FIOS in most areas and ultimately it may be the clear winner of very high speed because the receiving factor in consumer choice. But prices also a consideration and the nations may never widely demand speeds that only FIOS can provide. When several years, it is even possible mobile broadband advancements could make it a competitor to all of these over the-wire technologies, causing further disruption to the marketplace.

You can contact the author by jsrss@janusnetworks.com

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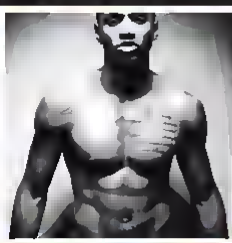
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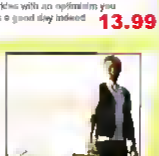
Trey Songz
Ready
Songbird Entertainment/Atlantic
For his third full-length Trey stretches out a bit throwing little curveballs (like the slammed guitar on "Black Roses") showing us that he is growing as an artist. His singing is still effortless and supple, perhaps more than ever. The production on *Ready* is awesome and the guest spots by Drake, Guest, Mario, Shaun Ray and more are right on. It gets before he starts singing on "I Invented Sex," he says "this one goes out to all the beautiful girls," and that might sum it all up: for all those girls that need a bad boy like Trey.

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Peter White
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The transcending guitarist is back, together with Phil-Up Saisse and producer DC, delivering what may be his best contemporary jazz release ever. This is an album of all originals, making a change from his more recent efforts which focused on cover tunes. White's songwriting sparkles with an optimism you won't find elsewhere. It's a good day indeed.

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SAVAGE LOVE

AM I A SLUT? AM I A FREAK?

One cheated on her boyfriend. Another wants her husband to know how he tastes.

By Dan Savage

I love my boyfriend of three years, but I fucked up. We've had our ups and downs — he broke up with me for two months last summer because he said he was "young and needs to feel free" — but we've always worked through things. He is super supportive of me and we've both really grown a lot as people together. But despite the affection and love I just don't feel wanted. I don't feel like he wants to fuck my brains out like he used to. In fact he rarely does, even when I try to initiate sex. Over the last six months I've struggled with depression and not feeling sexy, and we feeling wanted is making both things worse. Last year we talked about opening up our relationship, but I wasn't really comfortable with it.

Long story short, I went to visit a friend in another city who lives practically next door to a former fling of mine from four years ago, and I ended up fooling around with the former fling. It wasn't full sex, but it was highly inappropriate. And yet — it felt so good to be wanted so badly.

I feel like a terrible person for so many reasons. I told my boyfriend — he didn't respond emotionally, and after 45 minutes he got up and left and said he would call me when he knew how he felt. I want him to forgive me, but I have a feeling he won't. I don't want to cause him any more pain than I already have, but I have no idea how to do that. Do I give him space? Do I go on with my life?

Self-Loathing Unfaithful Tramp

Go on with your life, SLUT. Suicide seems a little drastic, given the circumstances, so let's not open a vein over this. It seems to me that the boyfriend was causing you a great deal of pain before you caused him pain. He has essentially rejected you again and again — the time he broke things off so he could "feel free" (what are you, a cage?) and the many times he's rejected you sexually and made you feel unwanted. Your sexual and emotional needs were not being met, and you succumbed to the attentions of a man who made you feel wanted. And that was unfortunate. SLUT but it wasn't entirely your fault. If the boyfriend wasn't sending you the mother of all mixed signals — doesn't want to leave you, doesn't want to fuck you — you would have been either single and free to fool around on that trip or not at all interested in fooling around because you were getting what you needed at home.

So feel a little bad about what you did, but don't feel too bad. This relationship needed to end; it wasn't making either of you happy. Think of it this way: You slammed your car into a brick wall and totaled the thing. But it was a lesson, SLUT, and now you're free to get yourself a new ride.

I have been considering becoming a woman. But the straight women I have talked to about this are very reluctant to assist me in my transition from being male to being female. I am wondering if you think that lesbians might be more open-minded.

Gender Identity Readjustment Looming

You're considering becoming a woman — that's wonderful, very interesting, always a special time in a man's life. But it's not like you're rushing a sorority; current members are not obligated to answer your questions, offer you assistance, host a tea or take even the slightest interest in your transition. Find a support group for MTFs (GIRL, and you'll find plenty of women — longtime members and new pledges — interested in hearing about your journey. But leave the women you meet in the normal course of your life alone.

My hubby wants to do anal for my first time. Isn't fucking me anal that's fun — but I'm only going to let him do it after he eats his own goo? Standoff? We've been married 17 years, and I think it would be hot! He thinks not! I say fair trade! I go down on him after he puts it in my sometimes as I know how I taste! Am I the only woman who has ever asked her husband to eat his goo?!?

He is willing finally because he really, really wants to get into my ass. But was it wrong for me to ask? Am I a freak?!? I've asked around and all my girls think I'm crazy and that it's a bad sign about our relationship! But we've got two great kids and we love each other and we have a really happy life! I just want to see my hubby eat his goo! My girls tell me I must be trying to make him gay! Nope! I just figured if he gets something he wants, I get something I want! Am I a freak?? Please help!!! Tell me I am not a freak! Tell me others write about this!

You are respected in our household and my husband will hear your answer because I intend to read it to him!!!

Great Oozing Orgasms

You're a freak, GOO — not that there's anything wrong with that of course. As for the particulars ...

You made granting your consent to fulfill his fantasy contingent upon his consenting to fulfill yours. That was manipulative *and* unfair of you. GOO, but it was also pretty freaking hot, just the kind of good natured, give-and-take-no-prisoners power play that keeps the sex interesting after 17 years of marriage. And I don't just say that as a fan of goo-eating generally — you might have gotten a "yes" quicker if you didn't insist on calling it "goo" — but as a fan of sexual adventures and pushing boundaries.

You set a bar for the husband to clear, GOO, but you didn't set it too high or impossibly high. You weren't asking him to let you fuck his ass first, fair but more challenging, or to swallow some other dude's load, unfair and extremely challenging. You didn't ask him to do something he absolutely, positively couldn't do, and you didn't ask him to do something you haven't done yourself (swallow his loads, taste your own juices).

Finally, there's nothing gay about a guy eating his own come — unless, of course, he's eating it off some other guy. ●

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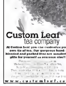
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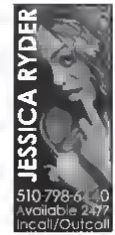
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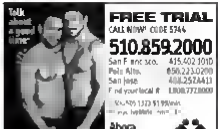


























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